

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act

Scottish Information Commissioner Decisions

What do they mean in practice?

A half-day course in Glasgow 26 February 2013

The Scottish Information Commissioner has issued more than 1,500 decision notices under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act and Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations. These complex decisions are essential materials for anyone trying to understand what Scottish public authorities must do to comply with the legislation. This course, aimed at those with a good working knowledge of the legislation, highlights key developments in the way the main exemptions, the public interest test and the legislation's procedural requirements are being interpreted. The course will cover significant decisions issued since the last course in March 2012.

About the trainer

The course will be presented by the Campaign for Freedom of Information's director, **Maurice Frankel**, who has worked in the field for over 27 years. He was actively involved in campaigning for FOI and seeking improvements to the legislation in the UK and Scottish parliaments. He now trains public authority staff and requesters in the legislation. He was a member of the Commonwealth Group of Experts whose FOI Principles were adopted by Commonwealth Law Ministers in 1999. He drafted the successful private members' bills which became the Access to Personal Files Act 1987, the Access to Medical Reports Act 1988, the Environment and Safety Information Act 1988 and the Access to Health Records Act 1990. He received an OBE for services to open government in 2004.

The course will cover key decisions under the Scottish FOI Act and EIRs, including those that:

- Set precedents for future cases
- Require public authorities to change the way they respond to requests
- Illustrate good practice
- Indicate how the law is evolving
- Clarify the circumstances in which particular exemptions apply
- Reveal when the public interest test favours disclosure or confidentiality
- Show how the provisions on vexatious requests, the cost limit, duty to advise and other administrative measures are being applied.

Note for advocates and solicitors:

It is suggested that 3 hrs CPD time may be claimed.

We can also provide this course in-house, please contact us for details.

Campaign for Freedom of Information

www.cfoi.org.uk/scotland.html

Course details

Glasgow: 26 February 2013

Time: 1.30 pm – 5.00 pm

Venue: Teacher Building

14 St Enoch Square, Glasgow G1 4BD

Ways to book

Derek Manson-Smith

Co-convenor CFOLinS

6A Park Circus Place, Glasgow G3 6AN

Phone: 0141 332 2341

Email: dms@ircuk.demon.co.uk

Cost

£50 individuals*/freelance journalists

£95 media/large NGOs

£60 academics/small NGOs**

£150 public authorities/others

**Individuals other than those with a professional/commercial interest*

***Small NGOs are those with a turnover of less than £80,000*

Discount

A 30% discount is available on the 2nd and subsequent bookings from the same organisation.

Booking form

Name:	Position:
Organisation:	Tel:
Email:	
Address:	
Please reserve.....places(s) on the 26 February 2013 course	
Others attending from your organisation:	
1) Name and email:	
2) Name and email:	
3) Name and email:	
SELECT PAYMENT OPTION: Please note we are unable to accept credit card payments	
<input type="checkbox"/> I enclose a cheque for £.... payable to 'Campaign for Freedom of Information in Scotland'	
<input type="checkbox"/> Please invoice my organisation. Name, postal & email address of person invoice should be sent to:	
Please provide a purchase order no. if required:	