

*Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act*

# Scottish Information Commissioner Decisions

## What do they mean in practice?

**A half-day course**

**Glasgow: 20 March 2012 & Aberdeen: 21 March 2012**

The Scottish Information Commissioner has issued more than 1,300 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 February 2011.

### **About the trainer**

The course will be presented by the Campaign'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 is a member of the Information Tribunal's User Group. He sat on the ODPM group looking at aligning the Local Government Act 1972 with the FOI Act. 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.**

This course is primarily aimed at public authorities, lawyers and other specialists working in the field. We can also provide this course in-house, please contact us for details.

# Campaign for Freedom of Information

[www.cfoi.org.uk/scotland.html](http://www.cfoi.org.uk/scotland.html)

## Course details

**Glasgow:** 20 March 2012

**Time:** 1.30 pm – 5.00 pm

**Venue:** Teacher Building

14 St Enoch Square, Glasgow G1 4BD

**Aberdeen:** 21 March 2012

**Time:** 1.30 pm – 5.00 pm

**Venue:** Viewmount

Arduthie Road, Stonehaven AB39 2DQ

## Ways to book

Derek Manson-Smith

Co-convener CFOlinS

6A Park Circus Place, Glasgow G3 6AN

**Phone:** 0141 332 2341

**Email:** [dms@ircuk.demon.co.uk](mailto:dms@ircuk.demon.co.uk)

## Cost

£50 individuals\*/freelance journalists

£60 academics/small NGOs\*\*

£95 media/large 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and subsequent bookings from the same organisation.

## Booking form

Name:	Position:
Organisation:	Tel:
Email:	
Address:	
Please reserve.....places(s) on the Glasgow <input type="checkbox"/> / Aberdeen <input type="checkbox"/> / course (tick location)	
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 & address of person invoice should be sent to:	
<b>Please provide a purchase order no. if required:</b>	