



Invite to Scottish Public Information Forum Meeting Friday 12th May at 9.30am in Edinburgh

The Campaign for Freedom of Information in Scotland (CFoIS) is convening a 'Scottish Public Information Forum' (SPIF) meeting on Friday 12th May in Edinburgh. The meeting is supported by UNISON Scotland. The purpose is to understand the 'access to information' right as it operates now in Scotland, hear the views of the providers of information as well as serve as an opportunity to hear the practical experiences of those who ask for information.

SPIF has morphed from various incarnations designed to phase in the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FoISA). In 2010, the Scottish Government defined its remit as 'enabling the long-term effectiveness' of FoISA and the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIR(S)s) through:

- Acting as a sounding-board on their practical operation.
- Sharing experiences of the law - from the perspective of public authorities and of users.
- Sharing good practice and experience across the various sectors in Scotland.
- Discussing progress updates from the Scottish Information Commissioner and Court of Session decisions.

SPIF is included in the Scottish Government's Six FoI principles published in 2007: 'We ensure the effective operation of the Act by fostering and maintaining good working relationships on Freedom of Information with stakeholders such as other public authorities and the Scottish Public Information Forum.' However, the SPIF has not met since October 2010 which creates a vacuum in stakeholder engagement.

The confirmed speakers include Margaret Keyse who is the Acting Scottish Information Commissioner, Alison Mackinnon who is the Information Manager at SEPA, Carole Ewart Convener of the Campaign for Freedom of Information in Scotland and Dave Watson from UNISON. The agenda is designed to enable plenty of discussion, be alerted to good practice initiatives and promote collaboration. The SPIF meeting should be understood as a process rather than a single event.

You are Invited to Attend SPIF

Attendance is free but as places are limited so you need to register in advance. Registration is via Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/scottish-public-information-forum-spif-tickets-33685456106> Alternatively email CFoIS to request a place cfoiscot@gmail.com

About CFoIS: We were established in 1984 to secure a legal right of access to information so that people could find out about how they are governed and how their services are delivered. We have been involved in all the major developments of the legislation both at UK and Scottish levels. <https://www.cfoi.org.uk/scotland/>