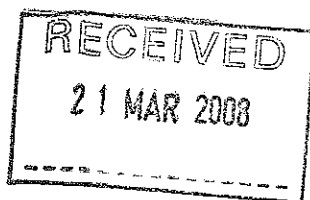




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Room 35, Ground Floor, 235 George Street

Ian Drummond JP LLB  
Solicitor to the Council

Date: 20 March 2008  
Our Ref: DH/smt  
Your Ref:

**FAO Mr Russell Frith, Director of Audit Strategy**  
Audit Scotland  
110 George Street  
EDINBURGH  
EH2 4LH

Dear Mr Frith

**SOLAR - PROVISION OF ELECTORAL REGISTER FOR NFI COUNCIL TAX MATCHING**

I refer to your letter dated 21 January 2008 on the above matter. I should clarify that I am responding to you in my capacity as Chair of the SOLAR Freedom of Information, Data Protection and Human Rights Group. As your letter correctly indicates, the Group had the matter of the provision of Electoral Registers to Audit Scotland for NFI on its agenda for our meeting of 15 February 2008.

At the time of your correspondence, this matter was simply on the agenda as an item of interest as I had appreciated that the operational date for submitting the Electoral Register was 21 January 2008 and had anticipated that Councils would have already made their own decisions on this matter by the time of our meeting.

However, following your correspondence it came to light that a number of Local Authorities had not, in fact, made their decision on release of the data. The SOLAR meeting on Friday 15 February 2008 therefore gave members of the Group the opportunity to air and discuss their conflicting legal views on disclosure. It is not the purpose of SOLAR to reach any decisions on such matters and, accordingly, it was agreed the meeting on 15 February that each Local Authority would have to come to its own conclusion on this matter after considering the issues. I would, however, reiterate that it is not SOLAR'S intention to be obstructive on this or any other matter; we are merely concerned to ensure that our members are able to discuss matters of general concern with their counterparts elsewhere who may be dealing with the same issues. We confer on all matters affecting local government, promoting sound administrative and legal practice within Scottish local authorities and aiming to promote and develop the professional knowledge and talents of SOLAR members.

I trust this clarifies matters but if you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Deborah Henderson  
Legal Manager (City Building Glasgow)  
Chair, SOLAR Freedom of Information, Data Protection and Human Rights Group

Please address correspondence to Deborah Henderson, Corporate and Property Law Section  
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