



Home Office

**Information Access Team
Shared Services Directorate**

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Dear Mr Wylie,

Our reference: 13853

Date: 13 April 2010

I am writing further to our e-mail of 11 March 2010, about your request for information with regard to how the Home Office works with the Scottish Executive. Your request is being handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We are still in the process of considering your request. Although the Act carries a presumption in favour of disclosure, it provides exemptions which may be used to withhold information in specified circumstances. Some of these exemptions, referred to as 'qualified exemptions', are subject to a public interest test. This test is used to balance the public interest in disclosure against the public interest in favour of withholding the information. The Act allows us to exceed the 20 working day response target where we need to consider the public interest test fully.

The information which you have requested is still being considered under the exemptions in section 23 (1) – security matters – and section 31 (1) (a) – administration of justice - of the Act. These are qualified exemptions and to consider the public interest test fully we need to extend the 20 working day response period. We now aim to let you have a full response by 12 May 2010.

If you have any questions about the handling of your information request then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Robert Clifford

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