



# Home Office

**Information Access Team  
Shared Services Directorate**

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Dear Mr Wyllie,

Our reference: 13853

Date: 14 April 2010

Thank you for your email of 13 April 2010 in which you request further information as to the time taken to provide a final response to your Fol request of January 26 2010 regarding the way the Home Office works with the Scottish Executive.

First of all please allow me to offer my apologies for the ongoing delay in providing a substantive response to your enquiry. I appreciate the inconvenience this may cause and would assure you that your request is being treated as a matter of priority.

You asked to be provided with an explanation as to the length of time taken to respond to your request. As previous correspondence has detailed, the information you have requested be communicated to you contains material that is seen to engage a qualified exemption under the Act. The exemption in question is that under section 31 (1) (a); the administration of justice.

The delay in this instance in providing you with a final response is seen to relate to the wide ranging nature of the information you have requested (namely information on the operational relationship between the Home Office, its agencies and the Scottish Executive). As this information concerns a large number of bodies and business areas connected to the Home Office it has been necessary to undertake extensive consultation in order to determine the likely implications of disclosing the material to you. Given the sensitivity of some of the material in question and the nature of the qualified exemption being considered, it has taken a considerable period of time to consider the information in detail.

I hope that this clarification will provide you with some insight into the reasons for the delay in providing you with a substantive response. If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me at the below address:

Information Access Team

Information Management Service  
Financial and Commercial Group  
Ground Floor (NW), Seacole Building  
2 Marsham Street  
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Yours sincerely,

Robert Clifford

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