Our Ref: FOI 6893272

Your Ref:

28 March 2019

By email: request-559011-d313dc7d@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr Thomas

**Request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (“the Act”)**

Thank you for your email received on 7 March 2019 requesting that the following information be provided to you:

 “In light of recent Police reporting regarding safety certificates at football stadia, could you please provide details (including copies if possible please) of the most recently granted safety certificates for all SPFL clubs within your remit along with details of any remedial works/adverse findings from inspections?”

The Council is treating your request as a request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and can respond as follows:

Glasgow City Council is a member of the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) which addresses safety in sports grounds, including the four main football stadia within the city. The Safety Advisory Group comprises partners from the Council’s Building Control & Public Safety and Licensing sections as well as Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue and the Scottish Ambulance Service.

The primary role of the Safety Advisory Group is to provide advice and guidance to a football club’s safety management team on accommodating spectators safely within their stadium including advice and guidance on sensitive issues such as spectator ingress and egress, crowd management, fire safety, personal security etc. The Safety Advisory Group is also responsible for advising the Council, as the Licensing Authority for Glasgow, in relation to the issuing of General and Special Safety Certificates for the stadiums under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975.

The Safety Advisory Group carries out its function having regard to the relevant recommendations set out in the Guide to Safety of Sports Grounds (“the Green Guide”) issued by the Sports Ground Safety Authority. A Safety Certificate will only be issued to a stadium once all relevant agencies forming part of the SAG have confirmed that they are satisfied that the physical structure and management of the stadium is sufficient to provide a reasonable level of safety for spectators.

Any correspondence between Glasgow City Council and the Club regarding the safety at the stadium would be held by the Council’s Safety Advisory Group.

Information held by the Safety Advisory Group in respect of Stadiums in Glasgow is, in our opinion, exempt from a request under section 1 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 because of the exemption contained in section 39(1) of the Act. In other words, in our opinion disclosure of the information would, or would be likely to, endanger the physical or mental health or the safety of an individual or individuals. Given the high profile nature of the stadiums there is realistic potential for information relating to safety and security arrangements to be utilised in the perpetration of a malicious act and, therefore, endanger the physical or mental health of spectators. As the subjects discussed by the Safety Advisory Group at their meetings relate explicitly to public safety, specifically the steps taken to protect the physical and mental health of those in and around the stadium, the Council does not consider it in the public interest to publish information on the matters discussed at these meetings nor does it consider that the public interest would be best served by releasing documentation presented to or produced by the Safety Advisory Group that relates specifically to the stadia and measures taken to ensure public safety. We are therefore unable to comply with your request in full. While we believe the exemption in Section 39(1) applies in this case, we would still be obliged to release this information in response to your request unless the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Glasgow City Council acknowledges the significant public interest in openness and transparency and therefore recognises that any request under Section 1 of this Act is potentially in the public interest.

However, the Council is of the view that the risk of information being used for malicious purposes that could realistically endanger persons outweighs the public interest in the release of this information. Taking into consideration the likely impact of releasing this information, on balance, the Council is of the opinion that, at this point in time, there is a greater public interest in withholding the information than there is in releasing it.

If you are dissatisfied with the way Glasgow City Council has dealt with your request you are entitled to require the Council to review its response. Please note that for a review to take place you must:

* Lodge a written requirement for a review within 40 working days of the date of this letter
* Include a correspondence address and a description of the original request and the reason why you are dissatisfied
* Address your request to the Director of Governance and Solicitor to the Council:

Director of Governance and Solicitor to the Council

Glasgow City Council

City Chambers

George Square

Glasgow G2 1DU

Email: FOIReviews@glasgow.gov.uk

You will receive notice of the results of the review within 20 working days of receipt of your request.  The notice will state the decision reached by the reviewing officer as well as details of how to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner if you are still dissatisfied with the Council’s response.  You must request an internal review by the Council before a complaint can be directed to the Scottish Information Commissioner.  For your information at this stage, an appeal can be made to the Scottish Information Commissioner by contacting her office as follows if you do remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the Council’s review decision -

Address: Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS.

Email: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

Telephone: 01334 464610

You can also use the Scottish Information Commissioner’s online appeal service to make an application for a decision: [www.itspublicknowledge.info/appeal](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/appeal)

Please note that you cannot make an appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner until you have first requested an internal review by the Council.

If you wish to submit a complaint to the Council in relation to the manner in which it has handled your request for information then you can do by requesting that the Council review its response. Details of how to request a review are set out in the above paragraph “Right of Review”.

Yours sincerely

Information and Data Protection Team

Chief Executive’s Department

Glasgow City Council’s Privacy Statements: <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/privacy>