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M Kelly
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Our Reference: 202000114334

Your Reference: Documentation relating to impact of NACWAG on policy and practise

7 December 2020

Dear M Kelly

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002 (FOISA)

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

Your request

You asked for:

Copies of all information, including but not limited to correspondence, notes of telephone calls and emails held by Scottish Government on any assessment carried out by the Scottish Government, or carried out by others but submitted to the Scottish Government, of the First Minister's National Advisory Council on Women and Girls. and its impact on policy and practice. Any information regarding the efficacy of the First Minister's National Advisory Council on Women and Girls., a Scottish Government funded body, regarding public engagement is also requested, particularly comparing NACWAG with other similar groups which claim to advocate for the equality of women in Scotland.

Response to your request

While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance the Scottish Government does not have the information you have requested. The reason for this is that the National Advisory

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot



Council on Women and Girls (NACWG) is an expert group established by the First Minister, comprising women leaders in their field, which also reflects the lived experience of women and girls in Scotland. As the name states, it acts in an advisory capacity, providing the First Minister with recommendations she may wish to consider to further advance gender equality in Scotland. As to the impact that the NACWG has had on policy and practice, since its establishment in 2017, all of the recommendations included in the NACWG's first two reports have been accepted by the First Minister, either in principle where they relate to policy currently reserved to the UK Government or in full, where the Scottish Government has the power to act on them.

Again with regard to your question relating to the public engagement carried out by the NACWG, there has been no comparison undertaken with organisations representing or advocating for women, as given the advisory role of the NACWG, this would not be a fair comparison. I would direct you to the NACWG's website: <https://onescotland.org/equality-themes/advisory-council-women-girls/> where you will be able to see and read about the many strands of engagement work that they have and continue to undertake.

Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your FOI request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by writing to Stephen Gallagher, Director for Local Government and Communities at stephen.gallagher@gov.scot. Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made within 40 working days from the date when you received this letter. We will complete the review in accordance with FOISA as soon as possible, and not later than 20 working days from the day following the date we receive your review request.

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. More detailed information on your appeal rights is available on the Commissioner's website at: <http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Unhappywiththeresponse/AppealingtoCommissioner.aspx>.

Yours sincerely

The Equality Unit
EAHR : Equality And Human Rights Division

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