



Angus Files
request-768231-1a1456b6@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Reference: 202100217187
Your Reference: request-768231-1a1456b6

16 July 2021

Dear Angus,

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

Thank you for your request dated 23 June 2021 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

Your request

You asked for:

In the article written by The Press And Journal 23/06/21 (below) can you disclose the circumstances arising for Shirley-Anne Somerville to be asked inappropriate questions and requests to be involved in a local issue.

- 1. Who asked Shirley-Anne Somerville for comment.*
- 2. What was asked.*
- 3. Why did they ask as it seems excessive to have access to draw this to the attention of the Education Secretary.*

Response to your request

Ms Somerville was asked this case by David Proctor, journalist with the Press and Journal during a sit-down (virtual) interview on Monday 21 June. The interview request was for a general discussion on Education issues – as such Ms Somerville had no advance knowledge details of what questions would be asked. Amongst many other issues raised Mr Proctor asked Ms Somerville for her views on this case.

In terms of “why” this question was asked this is not something that the Scottish Government could

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



provide, that would need to be put to Mr Proctor himself.

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 Director for Communications, Ministerial Support and Facilities, 3W, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG or email DirectorCMSF@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 60 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: [Appealing to the Scottish Information Commissioner \(itspublicknowledge.info\)](http://itspublicknowledge.info)

You can also contact the Commissioner at:

The Scottish Information Commissioner

Kinburn Castle

Doubledykes Road

St Andrews, Fife

KY16 9DS

E-mail: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

Telephone: 01334 464610

Should you then wish to appeal against the Commissioner's decision, there is a right of appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

Yours sincerely



Stuart McLean

Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

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

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

Accredited
Until 2020

