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Mr George Greenwood  
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Our ref: FOI/17/01547  
July 2017

Dear Mr Greenwood

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

Thank you for your request dated 30 June 2017 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

### Your request

You asked for “a copy of all emails sent and received by the following special advisors:

- a) Colin McAllister
- b) Liz Lloyd
- c) Kate Higgins
- d) Davie Hutchison
- e) Stewart Maxwell

Clearing freedom of information requests made by journalists to the Scottish government between January 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup> 2017 “.

### 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. This is because the role of special advisors does not involve “clearing freedom of information requests”. This is a formal notice under section 17(1) of FOISA that the Scottish Government does not have the information you have requested.

As our published guidance explains, special advisors sometimes provide comments on draft responses, as do other officials who have knowledge of, or an interest in, the information which has been requested.



### 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 Head of FOI Unit, 2W, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG or email [foi@gov.scot](mailto:foi@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 and tell you the result, within 20 working days from the date when 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

STEPHEN BRUCE