

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2017-0207
Date: 15 March 2017



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002 - INTERNAL REVIEW

In accordance with section 20(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I understand that you have requested a review of the decision communicated to you on 10 February 2017 in respect of your original request for information, received 20 January 2017.

Original Request

Please provide the name of the Police officers who are acting on behalf of Police Scotland for the Aberdeen FC Kingsford Development proposal.

I am aware that there are two officers: one selected regarding traffic management and another regarding event management.

I also have information to indicate that each is an Aberdeen Football Club supporter. I therefore request that the responses by Police Scotland - relating to the AFC proposals be handled by officers from an alternative division.

Please provide the details of the officers concerned.

Request for Review

I am writing to request an internal review of Police Scotland's handling of my FOI request 'Officers selected to work with AFC on Kingsford Stadium'. I have received the following information via Peter Chapman MSP,

"After enquiring about this issue I received the following answer from George Yule, Vice Chair at AFC.

AFC is in regular dialogue with Police Scotland in relation to the policing of matches and traffic management. As a key stakeholder, Police Scotland has been informed of the development proposals for Kingsford and consulted on their detail, including in relation to the site layout and traffic management strategy - the following background information - see narrative below - from Fairhurst Partners further reflects the Police satisfaction with our transport assessments and solutions thus far i.e.

We had dialogue with the Police in advance of the planning application and as a follow up we met again 18th November 2016 to discuss various aspects of policing the proposed new stadium and sent an email which confirmed the points discussed. In short, the Police are comfortable with our proposals and can manage the policing aspects. We asked for a letter confirming that they would handle traffic management and policing - however their position was that they wouldn't provide any letter or written response until after they viewed the submitted planning application. There is nothing sinister in that, it is just their position on matters like this i.e. They keep it formal.

AFC is therefore confident that its proposals accord with their expectations and, in fact, offer better solutions to match day policing and traffic management than the current facilities at Pittodrie. As a statutory consultee to the current planning application, Police Scotland will, of course, have the opportunity to lodge a formal response to the plans."

Please clarify the officers involved in this process as AFC claim, please confirm or deny Police Scotland's involvement. If involved, please provide the written statements/evidence regarding this application (for example details of meetings and meeting notes) and the notes of this approval given by officers of Police Scotland as indicated by George Yule of AFC.

If not involved please provide a statement detailing the current position of Police Scotland.

And...

Further to my previous request for an internal review please also indicate if the following information is correct. I have been informed that Police Scotland have met with AFC for various consultations. At these Police Scotland was represented by Davie Paterson (Events Inspector) and John Barron (Roads Policing Inspector).

Please provide all notes, dates of meetings, emails and all written communication between Police Scotland and Aberdeen Football Club (including representatives of Aberdeen Football Club linked to the Kingsford Stadium plans).

I am aware that both these individuals are heavily involved with Aberdeen Football Club - Police Scotland has resources across Scotland and I would suggest that it be more appropriate, to ensure the impartiality of Police Scotland in this matter, that officers are selected from a different division to review and comment on this application and the operational matters linked to it.

My role is to consider the response issued and determine whether or not your request was handled in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

As part of the review, I am also required to consider the quality of the administrative process applied to your request and I am pleased to record no deficiency in that regard.

In reviewing the response I have studied all documentation relevant to the request, including that which documents both the research carried out and the decision making process.

The decision I have to make is whether or not section 17 of the Act was correctly applied to your request.

I can confirm that Police Scotland have no nominated officers designated as acting on behalf of the organisation for traffic and/ or event management for this proposal.

Taking all of the above into account, I am satisfied that your request has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and in terms of section 21(4)(a) of the Act, I uphold the original response and agree that section 17 of the Act was correctly applied.

In relation to your further questions, I would advise you that Police Scotland have not entered into any formal engagement with Aberdeen Football Club or other stakeholders regarding the Kingsford Development.

The Kingsford planning application has been received by Police Scotland National Architectural Liaison Support and Development Officer, who is based in Fife.

To clarify this, Police Scotland is included on the circulation list for most developments but is not a statutory consultee, as such.

I can further advise you that on 24 February 2017, Police Scotland submitted their initial response to Aberdeen City Council from a 'Crime Prevention through Environmental Design' (CEPTED) perspective where the project will be subject to significant scrutiny by a number of specialist departments going forward.

The Police Scotland response appears as a document on the ACC website under Planning and Sustainable Development (Application 170021/DPP):

https://publicaccess.aberdeencity.gov.uk/online-applications/files/58106A1AC360B45BBD814CAED820AC75/170021_DPP-Police_Scotland-1474925.doc

Should you require any further assistance concerning this matter please contact Information Management - Dundee on 01382 596657 quoting the reference number given.

If you remain dissatisfied following the review of this case, you then have six months in which you may appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner who can be contacted as follows:

Online appeal service - www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal

Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9DS

Telephone: 01334 464610
Email: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

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