



Scottish Funding Council  
Promoting further and higher education



Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba  
A' brosnachadh foghlam adhartach agus àrd ìre

Tracy Watt  
request-428507-6f71d50b@whatdotheyknow.com

Our reference: FOISA517

26 October 2017

Dear Ms Watt

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

Thank you for your request of 29 September 2017 for an internal review under the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA). I have been asked to undertake the review.

#### **Your request for a review**

*I am writing to request an internal review of Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council's handling of my FOI request 'Removal of Glasgow Clyde College Board Correspondence'.*

*I have reasonable doubt as to the veracity of your claim that the only recorded information that you hold is the letter from the then Cabinet Minister, as the accountable body for overseeing the and initiating the original DLA Piper review, the Scottish Minister did consult with SFC with regard to her office's investigation into the SFC's alleged governance issues at Glasgow Clyde College, as the DLA piper review's evidence was not substantial to the point where it warranted the removal of the existing board as there was insufficient evidence to do so.*

*I find that as the accountable body for overseeing the college sector for you not to hold any recorded information on such a high profile case, would in it's self be a serious lack of governance as an NDPA.*

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## **Review outcome**

I have undertaken a review of your request for information of 2 September 2017. A copy of your request is attached as an annex to this letter.

In carrying out the review I have undertaken, and asked relevant colleagues to undertake, a fresh search for the information that you requested on 2 September. We have therefore reviewed again our physical files relating to Glasgow Clyde College, our electronic document and records management system (EDRMS), and all relevant email folders.

This fresh search has not identified any further information and, therefore, I can confirm our original decision of 29 September 2017.

I note that your request for information of 2 September 2017 asked for information between the dates of May and September 2015. However, I can confirm that a Scottish Government official wrote to SFC in October 2015 regarding the proposal to make an order under section 24 of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992 to remove specified members from the Board of Management of the College. If you would like to receive this information, please let me know.

## **Making an appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner**

If you remain dissatisfied with this response, you have six months from receipt of this response in which you may appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. You can appeal using the Scottish Information Commissioner's online appeals portal which can be accessed via the following link:

[www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal)

The Scottish information Commissioner can also be contacted at:

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

Email: [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info).  
Tel: 01334 464610

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Hancock', written in a cursive style.

**Richard Hancock**

Assistant Director - Strategy

Email: [info@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:info@sfc.ac.uk)

**Information request of 2 September 2017**

*I write Per the Freedom of information act (Scotland) 2002:*

*Please supply in electronic format, copies of all correspondence, appertaining to the series of meetings that took place between May and September 2015, which involved Scottish Government officials, the funding council, the Glasgow Colleges Regional Board, Glasgow Clyde College, the then Board of Glasgow Clyde College and Angela Constance the then Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong learning, in relation to the order laid before the Parliament to remove from office the chair and members of the board of Glasgow Clyde College and to appoint a new chair and members in their place by the then The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning (Angela Constance):*

*There has also been extensive correspondence between the funding council, the board and the Scottish Government, in which it was made clear the concerns and they sought to understand the facts. The board was given the opportunity to make its case, and Angela Constance states she considered its responses carefully.*

*To be clear I am making a request for all correspondence, that the Scottish Funding Council hold as recorded information, appertaining to the above that includes but is not limited to internal letters, emails, memos, minutes of meetings, external letters to and between the aforementioned institutions, governmental letters, opinions, telephone records or findings between the SFC/ Glasgow Clyde Board of Management/Glasgow Clyde College/Glasgow Colleges Regional Board/The Scottish Government between the dates of May and September 2015.*

*I refer you to the public record at*

*<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10137&i=93553>*