**THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002**

**REFUSAL NOTICE**

**Request Number:** 121

**Date: 1 August 2022**

This refusal notice is provided in accordance with section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (“the Act”).

You have requested certain information which we are not providing to you as it is otherwise accessible. The accompanying letter describes where the information you seek is available.

Section 16 of the Act requires us to complete a refusal notice when we are not providing information which is otherwise accessible. The details we are required to include in this refusal notice are set out below.

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| **Information which is the subject of the request** | “Please provide a copy of the further assessment, and any supporting information held by the Commission, providing the basis for the statement by Barbara Bolton to the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee on 21 June 2022 that:  “When the Bill came around again, the Commission took a conscious decision to look hard at it again. In recognition of the time that had passed and the possibility that the concerns had been clarified and that perhaps further evidence had been produced of real and concrete harm that might arise, we made a very conscious decision internally to devote time to really assess it. We did so, and have concluded, again, that we cannot identify any objectively evidenced real and concrete harm that is likely to result from the reforms.” |

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| **Information which is otherwise accessible** | *Consultation Response on the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill*, 17th March 2020, published by the Scottish Human Rights Commission.  *Submission to Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee: Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill,* May 2022, published by the Scottish Human Rights Commission.  This information is available on our website and we have provided a link here: [Policy & Publications | Scottish Human Rights Commission](https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/publications/). |

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| **Exemption(s)** | Section 25 - Information otherwise accessible |
| **Why exemption(s) applies** | The information is publicly available on the website of the Scottish Human Rights Commission. |
| **Public interest (where relevant)** | A Public Interest Test is not required under this exemption. |