



Dr Lucy Hunter Blackburn

Our Reference: 202300351974

17 May 2023

Dear Dr Lucy Hunter Blackburn,

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

Thank you for your request dated 17 April 2023 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

Your request

You asked for the following information:

In relation to the letters sent to the Chair of the EHRC by the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government in relation to the above Bill on 31 January 2022, 21 February 2022, 19 May 2022 and 19 October 2022, please could you provide any information held on whether these were also sent to any UK government addressee, and if so who, on what date(s) and with what further comment.

Please could you provide any records held of any discussion within the Scottish Government, and any involving any external organisations, of whether and how to share this correspondence with the UK government.

Response to your request

Regarding the 19 October 2022 letter, here is a short excerpt from an email sent from the Scottish Government to the UK Government on 21 October 2022.

"The Committee has also published our latest correspondence with EHRC [here](#)."



Regarding the rest of the letters in your request, the information you have requested is available from the Scottish Parliament website, where the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee has already published the letters you refer to here : <https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/committees/correspondence?billSelect=135bd115-68da-42a3-a9d1-7a76e5616f5f>

Under section 25(1) of FOISA, we do not have to give you information which is already reasonably accessible to you. If, however, you do not have internet access to obtain this information from the website(s) listed, then please contact me again and I will send you a paper copy.

As the correspondence was made public through the Committee at the time, there was no need to share with any UK government addressee. This is a formal notice under section 17(1) of FOISA that the Scottish Government does not have the information you have 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 Neil Rennick, Director of Justice, Room GW-02, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG or by email to Neil.Rennick@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 20 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: <http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Unhappywiththeresponse/AppealingtoCommissioner.aspx>.

Yours sincerely

Gender Recognition Unit
CLLS : Gender Recognition