Supporting documentation / Email Chains for FOI/19/00293

1. **Please provide all the data the Scottish Government has relating to the handling of FOI/18/02237, including all internal correspondence, phone calls, handwritten notes or other such documentation). Please also include all data relating to the involvement of ministers and special advisers.**

EMAIL CHAIN 1

From: Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>
Sent: 05 September 2018 09:16
To: [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: [redacted – exemption applies] Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: Re: Multiple Documents - "FOI Request - FOI_18_02237 -acknowledgement letter" (A21925260), "FOI Request - FOI_18_02237 -DRAFT response letter" (A21945084)

Thanks [redacted – exemption applies]
Happy to clear.
Andy

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 September 2018 20:07
To: Bruce A (Andrew)
Cc: [redacted – exemption applies]Leng D (David); [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: FW: Multiple Documents - "FOI Request - FOI_18_02237 - acknowledgement letter" (A21925260), "FOI Request - FOI_18_02237 -DRAFT response letter" (A21945084)

Andy

I have now attached the supporting documentation. I attached the wrong file in error.

[redacted – exemption applies]

[redacted – exemption applies]\ Policy Manager \ Scottish Government \ Learning Directorate \ National Improvement Framework Unit \ 2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ \ Tel [redacted – exemption applies]
E-mail: [redacted – exemption applies]

[One document redacted – exemption applies]

-----Original Message-----
From: Bruce A (Andrew)
Sent: 04 September 2018 18:45

To: [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: [redacted – exemption applies] Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: Multiple Documents - "FOI Request - FOI_18_02237 - acknowledgement letter" (A21925260), "FOI Request - FOI_18_02237 -DRAFT response letter" (A21945084)

[redacted – exemption applies]

On the question about internal correspondence relating to DFM's appearance on the radio programme, I don't think I have the PDF of the material we are suggesting releasing. Am I reading that right, or are we simply saying we're not releasing any of the material?
Thanks
Andy

Andy Bruce
Deputy Director, Strategy and Performance Learning Directorate

[redacted – exemption applies]

Learning Directorate | Area 2C North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ
Buidheann-Stiùiridh an Ionnsachaidh | Raon 2B Tuath | Cidhe Bhictòria | Dùn Èideann | EH6 6QQ

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 04 September 2018 11:35
To: Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – exemption applies]; Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: Multiple Documents - "FOI Request - FOI_18_02237 -acknowledgement letter" (A21925260), "FOI Request - FOI_18_02237 -DRAFT response letter" (A21945084)

Andy

Please find attached a draft response to an FOI request from [redacted] for your clearance. The response is due to be released by 14 September, therefore a quick response would be appreciated.

Thanks
[redacted – exemption applies]

[redacted – exemption applies]\ Policy Manager \ Scottish Government \ Learning Directorate \ National Improvement Framework Unit \ 2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ \ Tel [redacted – exemption applies]

[3 documents redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 03 September 2018 17:09
To: [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]; Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: FOI 18/02237 for review

Thanks [one paragraph redacted – exemption applies]

Thanks
[redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 31 August 2018 12:43
To: [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]; Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: FOI 18/02237 for review

Hi [redacted – exemption applies]

Please see attached draft response to FOI request for review. I hope to get to Andy and onto SpAds on Monday to meet required timeframes.

Thanks
[redacted – exemption applies]

[two documents redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 31 August 2018 12:03
To: Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: FOI Request - FOI_18_02237 -DRAFT response letter - due date 14/09/18

Hi David

Since my first email I have dug out some previous lines and passed to [redacted – exemption applies]so the response is now:

Whilst we hold no specific evidence based documentation, the approach to national standardised assessment was developed after extensive engagement with teachers, parents, children and academics. We have drawn evidence from a range of advice and publications, including from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) – specifically their publication Synergies for Better Learning: An International Perspective on Evaluation and Assessment and Education Policy Outlook 2015.

Of the 29 local authorities using standardised assessments prior to the introduction of the Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSA) in August 2017, many

invested educationally in P1 assessments. This sustained practice over a significant number of years provided early diagnostic information to teachers to inform next steps in learning. The SNSA, aligned to Curriculum for Excellence and designed specifically for the Scottish educational context, replace established P1 assessments and contribute more readily to educational assessment in a Scottish context.

Let me know if you have any concerns/comments.
Thanks
[redacted – exemption applies]

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 31 August 2018 11:51
To: [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: FOI Request - FOI_18_02237 -DRAFT response letter - due date 14/09/18

Thanks [redacted – exemption applies]

[three paragraphs redacted – exemption applies]

[redacted – exemption applies]

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 31 August 2018 11:46
To: [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: FOI Request - FOI_18_02237 -DRAFT response letter - due date 14/09/18

[redacted – exemption applies]

[three paragraphs redacted – exemption applies]

Hope this is helpful.

Regards

[redacted – exemption applies]

[redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]

Learning Directorate
Scottish Government
[redacted – exemption applies]

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted – exemption applies]

Sent: 31 August 2018 11:21
To: [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: FOI Request - FOI_18_02237 -DRAFT response letter - due date 14/09/18

Thanks for this [redacted – exemption applies]. Are you aware of any evidence/report/papers showing people emphatically argue for P1 assessments !!

[redacted – exemption applies]

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 31 August 2018 11:16
To: Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: FOI Request - FOI_18_02237 -DRAFT response letter - due date 14/09/18

Hi David

[redacted – exemption applies]. I'm looking for a wee bit advice. I am working on an FOI and one of the questions is looking for evidence that the Scottish Government has that there are "people who emphatically argue for P1 assessments" !!! Are you aware of any report or evidence base I can refer to.

Happy to call you if it's easier and if you are working.

Thanks
[redacted – exemption applies]

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 31 August 2018 08:59
To: [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: FOI Request - FOI_18_02237 -DRAFT response letter - due date 14/09/18

[redacted – exemption applies]

Please see attached draft response to the specific FOI request below.

Hope this is helpful.

Regards

[redacted – exemption applies]

[redacted – exemption applies]

Learning Directorate
Scottish Government
[redacted – exemption applies]

Please provide a copy of all the evidence that the Scottish Government has that there are "people who emphatically argue for P1 assessments", as stated by the Cabinet Secretary on 16 August 2018.

[one paragraph redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 31 August 2018 07:54
To: [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: FOI Request - FOI_18_02237 -DRAFT response letter - due date 14/09/18

Thanks [redacted – exemption applies]

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 31 August 2018 07:53
To: [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: FOI Request - FOI_18_02237 -DRAFT response letter - due date 14/09/18

Hi [redacted – exemption applies]

For info [redacted – exemption applies] will give you some wording on the second point in your e-mail.

[redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 30 August 2018 15:37
To: [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: FOI Request - FOI_18_02237 -DRAFT response letter - due date 14/09/18

Hi [redacted – exemption applies]

Following our conversation earlier around the FOI request I am working on, I have attached a link to the draft response. I would be grateful if you can provide a few lines to question 2:

Please provide a copy of all the evidence that the Scottish Government has that there are "people who emphatically argue for P1 assessments", as stated by the Cabinet Secretary on 16 August 2018.

Additionally, can you send me a copy of the reformatted Excel report on Assessment Durations as I need to get this FOI ready to go to SpAds by Monday to meet the clearance times.

Thanks
[redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 30 August 2018 12:32
To: [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]; Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: FW: FOI - MPO - Standardised assessments for p1 children - [redacted]

All

Following my request of 22 August I have received no further details relevant to this FOI request. Can you please provide a **NIL** return if this is the case.

Best regards
[redacted – exemption applies]

[redacted – exemption applies]\ Policy Manager \ Scottish Government \ Learning Directorate \ National Improvement Framework Unit \ 2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ \ Tel [redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 22 August 2018 11:00
To: [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]; Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: FW: FOI - MPO - Standardised assessments for p1 children - [redacted]

All

I have been now been allocated the FOI request received from [redacted] in relation to standardised assessments for P1 children. To enable me to respond to this request in a timely manner can you please send me all relevant details by close of play Wednesday 29 August.

Thanks
[redacted – exemption applies]

[redacted – exemption applies]\ Policy Manager \ Scottish Government \ Learning Directorate \ National Improvement Framework Unit \ 2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ \ Tel [redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 22 August 2018 07:43
To: [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: FW: FOI - MPO - Standardised assessments for p1 children - [redacted]

Hi [redacted – exemption applies]

Please see these e-mails from Comms for the recent FOI from [redacted]

[redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 21 August 2018 14:20
To: [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: FOI - MPO - Standardised assessments for p1 children - [redacted]

Thanks, saw that when it came in.

The answer to Q1 is Wed 8 August. I have attached the only two emails I hold.

[redacted – exemption applies] – can you pls search your files for the email to DFM's office and the response, and pass to [re dacted – exemption applies]pls?

[redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 21 August 2018 12:25
To: [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: FW: FOI - MPO - Standardised assessments for p1 children - [redacted]

Hi [redacted – exemption applies]

To be aware of this FOI. You will see there are specific questions on the DFM's radio appearance last week.

[redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies] **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Sent: 21 August 2018 12:15
To: [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: Logan G (Graeme) <Graeme.Logan@gov.scot>; Robertson FMG (Fiona) (Director of Learning) <Fiona.Robertson@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: FOI - MPO - Standardised assessments for p1 children - [redacted]

[redacted – exemption applies]

Are you able to take this FOI forward?

Thanks

[redacted – exemption applies]

[redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills | The Scottish Government | Web: www.gov.scot |[redacted – exemption applies]

From: Central Enquiry Unit
Sent: 17 August 2018 13:58
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>
Cc: Communications DFM & Education <CommunicationsDFM&Education@gov.scot>
Subject: FOI - MPO - Standardised assessments for p1 children - [redacted]

Good afternoon,

The email enquiry below was received at the Central Enquiry Unit today.
I would be grateful if you would deal with this or forward it to the appropriate person / area of business.

You may wish to acknowledge receipt of this email to the enquirer.

Thank you

[redacted – exemption applies]
Central Enquiry Unit
Ext: [redacted – exemption applies]

[redacted – exemption applies]**| Enquiry Officer | iTECS: Central Enquiry Unit | Digital Directorate | Scottish Government | Ext:** [redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted] <J[redacted]@parliament.scot>
Sent: 17 August 2018 13:40
To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Standardised assessments for p1 children

Good afternoon,

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, I would be grateful if you could comply with the following request.

1.(a) On what date did BBC Radio Scotland first contact the Scottish Government requesting that the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills appear on their phone in (as he did on 16 August 2018).

(b) Please provide a copy of all the correspondence and discussions, internal and external, relating to this appearance.

2. Please provide a copy of all the evidence that the Scottish Government has that there are "people who emphatically argue for P1 assessments", as stated by the Cabinet Secretary on 16 August 2018.

3. (a) Please provide a copy of the evidence cited by the Cabinet Secretary on 16 August 2018 that shows the standardised numeracy assessment takes on average 22 minutes for a P1 child to complete the test.

(b) What assessment has the Scottish Government made, or what evidence has it received, on the amount of time on average that the P1 tests take (a) P1 teachers and (b) other primary school staff to administer? Please provide a copy of all the data the government has on this.

Thank you in anticipation for your assistance and I look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]
Head of Policy & Research | Scottish Liberal Democrats

Email: [redacted] parliament.scot
[redacted – exemption applies]

[redacted – exemption applies]| Scottish Parliament | Edinburgh | EH99 1SP

EMAIL CHAIN 2

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 04 September 2018 10:03
To: [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: FOI Request - FOI_18_02237 -DRAFT response letter

[redacted – exemption applies]

I have updated the FOI response having discussed with David.

Please confirm okay to go to Andy.

Thanks
[redacted – exemption applies]

FOI Request - FOI_18_02237 -DRAF [This document has been attached as a separate document]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 04 September 2018 09:33
To: Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>
Subject: FOI Request - FOI_18_02237 -DRAFT response letter

Hi David

Can you take a look at the FOI response I have drafted. Specifically question 2. I would appreciate your comments as soon as possible.

I am hoping to get this to Andy Bruce and onto SpAds today.

Thanks
[redacted – exemption applies]

[one document redacted – exemption applies]

EMAIL CHAIN 3

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 14 September 2018 09:32
To: [redacted]__parliament.scot
Subject: FOI Request - FOI/18/02237

Dear James

Please find attached a response to your FOI request of 17 August.

Best regards
[redacted – exemption applies]

[redacted – exemption applies]\ Policy Manager \ Scottish Government \ Learning Directorate \ National Improvement Framework Unit \ 2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ \ [redacted – exemption applies]

[three documents redacted – exemption applies]

EMAIL CHAIN 4

From: [redacted – exemption applies] **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Sent: 14 September 2018 08:34
To: [redacted – exemption applies]; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>
Cc: McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Education <CommunicationsDFM&Education@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies];

[redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: FOI 18/02237 - Response due by 14 September 2018

[redacted – exemption applies]

Thank you for your submission – DFM is content for the response to issue.

Kind Regards
[redacted – exemption applies]

[redacted – exemption applies]| Deputy Private Secretary to John Swinney MSP, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills | The Scottish Government | Web: www.gov.scot | [redacted – exemption applies] | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 13 September 2018 21:02
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Education <CommunicationsDFM&Education@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: FOI 18/02237 - Response due by 14 September 2018

[redacted – exemption applies]

As discussed earlier, please find attached draft FOI response for clearance. The response is due for release on **Friday 14th September.**

Best regards
[redacted – exemption applies]

[redacted – exemption applies]\ Policy Manager \ Scottish Government \ Learning Directorate \ National Improvement Framework Unit \ 2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ \ Tel [redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 13 September 2018 19:08
To: Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>
Subject: FOI Request - FOI_18_02237 -DRAFT response letter

Andy

Having read the User Review and in further discussion with [redacted – exemption applies], I have amended the response to question 3.

Happy to discuss, I have not yet resubmitted to DFM.

Thanks

[redacted – exemption applies]

[redacted – exemption applies]\ Policy Manager \ Scottish Government \ Learning Directorate \ National Improvement Framework Unit \ 2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ \ Tel [redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 13 September 2018 17:25
To: Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>
Subject: FOI Request - FOI_18_02237 -DRAFT response letter (A21945084)

[redacted – exemption applies] has sent you a copy of "FOI Request - FOI_18_02237 -DRAFT response letter" [redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 06 September 2018 09:05
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>
Cc: Communications DFM & Education <CommunicationsDFM&Education@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: FOI 18/02237 for Clearance - due for release 14 September

DFM Private Office

Please see below details of an FOI request received from [redacted] Head of Policy & Research, Scottish Liberal Democrats.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, I would be grateful if you could comply with the following request.

1.(a) On what date did BBC Radio Scotland first contact the Scottish Government requesting that the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills appear on their phone in (as he did on 16 August 2018).

(b) Please provide a copy of all the correspondence and discussions, internal and external, relating to this appearance.

2. Please provide a copy of all the evidence that the Scottish Government has that there are "people who emphatically argue for P1 assessments", as stated by the Cabinet Secretary on 16 August 2018.

3. (a) Please provide a copy of the evidence cited by the Cabinet Secretary on 16 August 2018 that shows the standardised numeracy assessment takes on average 22 minutes for a P1 child to complete the test.

(b) What assessment has the Scottish Government made, or what evidence has it received, on the amount of time on average that the P1 tests take (a) P1 teachers

and (b) other primary school staff to administer? Please provide a copy of all the data the government has on this.

Thank you in anticipation for your assistance and I look forward to your response.

I have attached a draft response and supporting document for DFM's review and clearance. The response is due to be released **by 14 September.**

Thank you and best regards
[redacted – exemption applies]

[redacted – exemption applies]\ Policy Manager \ Scottish Government \ Learning Directorate \ National Improvement Framework Unit \ 2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ \ Tel [redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies] **On Behalf Of** FoI SpAds PO
Sent: 05 September 2018 18:25
To: [redacted – exemption applies]; FoI SpAds PO <FoI.SpAdsPO@gov.scot>
Cc: Communications DFM & Education <CommunicationsDFM&Education@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Robertson FMG (Fiona) (Director of Learning) <Fiona.Robertson@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: FOI 18/02237 for Clearance - due for release 14 September

Hi [redacted – exemption applies],

SpAds are content with the proposed response.

This requires Ministerial clearance and lines should be prepared before issue.

Thanks,
[redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 05 September 2018 09:46
To: FoI SpAds PO <FoI.SpAdsPO@gov.scot>
Cc: Communications DFM & Education <CommunicationsDFM&Education@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Robertson FMG (Fiona) (Director of Learning) <Fiona.Robertson@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: FOI 18/02237 for Clearance - due for release 14 September

Hello

Please see below details of an FOI request received from [redacted] Head of Policy & Research, Scottish Liberal Democrats.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, I would be grateful if you could comply with the following request.

1.(a) On what date did BBC Radio Scotland first contact the Scottish Government requesting that the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills appear on their phone in (as he did on 16 August 2018).

(b) Please provide a copy of all the correspondence and discussions, internal and external, relating to this appearance.

2. Please provide a copy of all the evidence that the Scottish Government has that there are "people who emphatically argue for P1 assessments", as stated by the Cabinet Secretary on 16 August 2018.

3. (a) Please provide a copy of the evidence cited by the Cabinet Secretary on 16 August 2018 that shows the standardised numeracy assessment takes on average 22 minutes for a P1 child to complete the test.

(b) What assessment has the Scottish Government made, or what evidence has it received, on the amount of time on average that the P1 tests take (a) P1 teachers and (b) other primary school staff to administer? Please provide a copy of all the data the government has on this.

Thank you in anticipation for your assistance and I look forward to your response.

I have attached a draft response and supporting document for your review and clearance. The response is due to be released **by 14 September.**

Thank you and best regards
[redacted – exemption applies]

[redacted – exemption applies]\ Policy Manager \ Scottish Government \ Learning Directorate \ National Improvement Framework Unit \ 2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ \ Tel [redacted – exemption applies]

FOI Request - FOI_18_02237 -DRAF

[This document has been attached as a separate document]

[two documents redacted – exemption applies]

EMAIL CHAIN 5

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 24 August 2018 11:58
To: [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]

Cc: [redacted – exemption applies]; Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>
Subject: AS00A-03_Assessment Duration AY2017-18_v0.2.xlsx

Hi [redacted – exemption applies]/ [redacted – exemption applies]

This document is relevant to the FOI's you are dealing with. [redacted – exemption applies] this would relate to question 3(a) of 18/02237.

Any personal details should be redacted.

[redacted – exemption applies]

[one document redacted – exemption applies]

2. Using the same parameters as set out in question 1, please provide all the data the Scottish Government has relating to the handling of the subsequent news stories first printed in the Herald on 9 and 10 January 2018 (see here and here).

EMAIL CHAIN 6

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 09 January 2019 17:53
To: [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: [redacted – exemption applies]; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: lines needed - Herald - P1 assessments testing

Just getting round to circulating the PA copy of today's evidence.

SCHOOLS USING TEST DATA FOR UNETHICAL PURPOSES, MSPS WARNED

By Laura Paterson, Political Reporter, Press Association Scotland

Page 1: 13:39

An education professor has told MSPs some Scottish schools are using assessments in ways which are "not ethical", such as the use of nursery data to stream primary one pupils.

Giving evidence on the controversial introduction of Scottish National Standardised Assessment (SNSA), Strathclyde University's Sue Ellis said there is a need for "good standardised data" - but also for a robust set of ethics surrounding how the data is used.

She said some schools are using standardised data for streaming pupils, and some are using formative data from nurseries to put pupils at a similar level together as they enter primary one - something she said "enshrines disadvantage and is not an ethical use of data".

She said some schools are using standardised data for streaming and setting and are also using formative data from nurseries to set on entry to primary one, which "enshrines disadvantage and is not an ethical use of data".

She said: "Some of the uses [of both standardised and non-standardised tests] I see that are happening in schools at the moment are not ethical.

"I actually see the introduction of a national assessment as an opportunity to open that up for debate and to get a much better use of assessment, one that actually works for children and parents."

She told Holyrood's Education Committee that a "popular literacy scheme" recommends primary four children struggling with reading are sent to primary two for literacy lessons - a "daily walk of shame... detrimental to their health and wellbeing".

She said the national standardised tests could perhaps in years to come predict children's future learning, but this could take 15 years.

She added: "So until that point the ethical consideration has to do no harm.

"You don't set, you don't stream, you don't put children into catch-up programmes that remove them from the main body of the class and put them in a different category from other children on the basis of one snapshot."

Some teachers, education unions and all opposition parties oppose standardised tests for primary one pupils which were introduced in 2017 to help close the attainment gap, and the assessments are said to have left some youngsters in tears.

Following a parliamentary vote to halt the tests, not binding on the Scottish Government, Education Secretary John Swinney instigated an independent review into the issue.

Now, the Liberal Democrats have called on him to apologise for "fabricating fictional support" for the tests.

Mr Swinney said in August that there are "people who emphatically argue for P1 assessments".

In response to questioning from the Lib Dems, the Scottish Government named academics including Dylan Wiliam, emeritus professor of educational assessment at University College London, as evidence for his statement.

But Mr Wiliam told The Herald newspaper: "This is a substantial, and I would say perverse, misrepresentation of my work.

"The kind of standardised assessments used in the Scottish national assessments of primary one children are simply incapable of providing the kind of information that I think teachers would need in order to teach better."

He added the assessments "are almost completely useless as guides to the achievement and needs of five-year-olds", and he questioned whether the Government was being "deliberately misleading".

Lib Dem education spokesman Tavish Scott said: "This is nothing short of unbelievable.

"The Scottish Government has brazenly twisted the work of an esteemed academic who adamantly opposes their national testing policy."

He said Mr Swinney must "immediately come to Parliament and apologise for this falsehood".

A Scottish Government spokesman said: "We referenced Professor Wiliam as a supporter of a formative approach to assessment.

"It was not our intention to imply he supported SNSA and it is clear that he does not."

He said the tests are designed to provide information to teachers on literacy and numeracy, used with other evidence to help shape teaching and support judgements on children's progress.

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 09 January 2019 09:27
To: [redacted – exemption applies; [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: [redacted – exemption applies]; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: lines needed - Herald - P1 assessments testing

Hi [redacted – exemption applies]– I'll keep an eye on it.

Thanks,
[redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 09 January 2019 09:23
To: [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: [redacted – exemption applies]; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies; [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: lines needed - Herald - P1 assessments testing

Will do [redacted – exemption applies]. Is someone monitoring the evidence to the education committee this morning?

[redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 09 January 2019 08:59
To: [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: [redacted – exemption applies]; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption

applies]; [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: lines needed - Herald - P1 assessments testing

[redacted – exemption applies]

[one sentence redacted – exemption applies]. I am aware lines were cleared yesterday. Please copy me in to any further communications on this matter.

Thanks
[redacted – exemption applies]

[redacted – exemption applies]\ Policy Manager \ Scottish Government \ Learning Directorate \ National Improvement Framework Unit \ 2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ \ [redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]>
Sent: 08 January 2019 17:14
To: McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: lines needed - Herald - P1 assessments testing

Thanks Colin.
[redacted – exemption applies]

From: McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>
Sent: 08 January 2019 17:09
To: [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: lines needed - Herald - P1 assessments testing

I would suggest:

[two paragraphs redacted – exemption applies]
Regards

Colin McAllister
[redacted – exemption applies]

From: McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>
Sent: 08 January 2019 16:49
To: [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]

Cc: Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: lines needed - Herald - P1 assessments testing

Can I see exactly what the FOI said please? Thanks.

Regards

Colin McAllister
[redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 08 January 2019 16:44
To: [redacted – exemption applies]; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>
Cc: Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: lines needed - Herald - P1 assessments testing

Hi [redacted – exemption applies]

Please see further suggested lines below:

[Two paragraphs redacted – exemption applies]

Thanks,
[redacted – exemption applies]

[redacted – exemption applies]
National Improvement Framework Unit
Learning Directorate
Area 2C North, Victoria Quay, Leith, EH6 6QQ
[redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 08 January 2019 16:25
To: [redacted – exemption applies]; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>
Cc: Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: lines needed - Herald - P1 assessments testing

[one paragraph redacted – exemption applies]

Thanks.

[redacted – exemption applies].

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 08 January 2019 16:10
To: [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: lines needed - Herald - P1 assessments testing

Hi [redacted – exemption applies]

Please see suggested lines below:

[one paragraph redacted – exemption applies]

Thanks,
[redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 08 January 2019 14:33
To: [redacted – exemption applies]; Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: lines needed - Herald - P1 assessments testing
Importance: High

Thanks for your time there [redacted – exemption applies].
Enquiry initially sent you [redacted – exemption applies] and the guys below for reference. This is for today.
Speak soon.
[redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 08 January 2019 11:10
To: [redacted – exemption applies]; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: lines needed - Herald - P1 assessments testing

I now have the FOI response, attached, and have copied to [redacted – exemption applies] as well.

[redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 08 January 2019 11:03
To: Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>
Subject: lines needed - Herald - P1 assessments testing

Good morning.

The Herald has approached for response to comments (copied below for reference) from UCL Prof. Dylan Wiliam on the back of reference to his research in an FoI response to the Lib Dems on P1 testing. See below for his response. Grateful for any lines in order to pull a response together. This is for today.

Thanks.
[redacted – exemption applies].

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 08 January 2019 10:27
To: [redacted]>
Subject: RE: Testing

Ok ta. fyi this email was intercepted before it got to me as it contained 'profane language' so I had to retrieve from the server - in case you 're sending elsewhere.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 08 January 2019 10:14
To: [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: Testing

Hi [redacted – exemption applies],

In an FoI response to the Lib Dems the Scottish Government referred to research on testing by UCL professor Dylan Wiliam.

I sent him the response and asked for his views.

This was his response - could we get some lines?

I'll send on the response he is referring to in a sec.

Thanks,

Andy

From: [redacted]>
Sent: Monday, January 7, 2019 4:45 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Scottish standardised assessments

Dear Andy

This is a substantial, and I would say perverse, misrepresentation of my work. The kind of standardised assessments used in the Scottish national assessments of Primary 1 children are simply incapable of providing the kind of information that I think teachers would need in order to teach better. While some might argue that these assessments may, under certain conditions be regarded as “formative”, the unreliability of the assessments, combined with the unreliability of five-year-olds (!) means that these assessments are almost completely useless as guides to the achievement and needs of five year olds.

The interesting question, of course, is whether the author of this document really believes what is written here, in which, to paraphrase Aneurin Bevan, he or she is too stupid to be doing that job, or whether they know they are being deliberately misleading. Princeton philosopher Harry Frankfurt, in his classic book “On b*llshit” argues that b*llshitters are more dangerous than liars. Liars have a regard for the truth, and try to work around it. B*llshitters have absolutely no concern for whether what they are saying is true or not.

Best wishes

EMAIL CHAIN 7

From: Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>
Sent: 09 January 2019 08:34
To: Robertson FMG (Fiona) (Director of Learning) <Fiona.Robertson@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Line to clear - Herald - P1 assessments testing

Hi Fiona
Just forwarding on the details of some email traffic below that relates to an article that is on the front page of the Herald today.
It would be good to have a word.
Andy

From: [redacted – exemption applies] **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Sent: 08 January 2019 19:00
To: [redacted – exemption applies]; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>
Cc: Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: Line to clear - Herald - P1 assessments testing

Hi [redacted – exemption applies]

DFM has cleared this.

Thanks
[redacted – exemption applies]

[redacted – exemption applies] | Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills | Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Date: Tuesday, 08 Jan 2019, 5:40 pm
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>
Cc: Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>, [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>, Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>, [redacted – exemption applies]; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>, [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: Line to clear - Herald - P1 assessments testing

PS DFM

Good afternoon.

The Herald has approached for response to comments it received (copied below for reference) from UCL Prof. Dylan Wiliam on the back of reference to his research in an FoI response to the Lib Dems on P1 testing - attached for reference.
Comms, policy and spads have discussed and agreed the below response. Is DFM content for this to issue.

Thanks.
[redacted – exemption applies].

[two paragraphs redacted – exemption applies]

From: Dylan Wiliam [redacted]>
Sent: Monday, January 7, 2019 4:45 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Scottish standardised assessments

Dear Andy

This is a substantial, and I would say perverse, misrepresentation of my work. The kind of standardised assessments used in the Scottish national assessments of Primary 1 children are simply incapable of providing the kind of information that I

think teachers would need in order to teach better. While some might argue that these assessments may, under certain conditions be regarded as “formative”, the unreliability of the assessments, combined with the unreliability of five-year-olds (!) means that these assessments are almost completely useless as guides to the achievement and needs of five year olds.

The interesting question, of course, is whether the author of this document really believes what is written here, in which, to paraphrase Aneurin Bevan, he or she is too stupid to be doing that job, or whether they know they are being deliberately misleading. Princeton philosopher Harry Frankfurt, in his classic book “On b*llshit” argues that b*llshitters are more dangerous than liars. Liars have a regard for the truth, and try to work around it. B*llshitters have absolutely no concern for whether what they are saying is true or not.

Best wishes

EMAIL CHAIN 8

From: [redacted – exemption applies] **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Sent: 09 January 2019 16:42
To: [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: Line to clear - Swinney must apologise to Parliament for manufacturing “fictional” academic support for P1 testing

Hi [redacted – exemption applies]

DFM has cleared this.

Thanks
[redacted – exemption applies]

[redacted – exemption applies] | Private Secretary to John Swinney MSP | Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills | Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 09 January 2019 16:34
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>
Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]; McAllister

C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: Line to clear - Swinney must apologise to Parliament for manufacturing "fictional" academic support for P1 testing

PS DFM
On the back of yesterday's enquiry from the Herald regarding comments on P1 testing from academic Dylan Wiliam's, The Herald has also since obtained further critical comments from another academic, Prof. James Popham of UCLA. Comms, policy and spads have discussed and agreed the below updated comments. Is DFM content for this to issue?
Best.
[redacted – exemption applies].

[one paragraph redacted – exemption applies]

Herald comment from Prof. Popham – for reference

Andy at the Herald has sent in this response from Professor Popham to our letter. Can lines be updated pls?

"Whether made from ignorance or malevolence, the attribution quotation is flat-out incorrect. I know precious little about Scottish tests. Actually, my knowledge regarding the assessments used in other nations is far more expansive. Years ago, I made a deliberate decision to avoid the allure of studying other countries' tests—on the grounds that our own test-usage was profound enough to warrant my full-time attention. I'm sure you folks will do better than we have—based on raw chance.One thing you need to understand, though, is that there is not "a formative test." Rather, tests can be created so that can best contribute to the formative assessment process. I've copied below the a definition I use in my own writing and presentations. It is most definitely possible to build tests for little tykes in support of the formative assessment process as defined there. Wish I could tell you about yours.

- Formative assessment is a planned process in which assessment-elicited evidence of students' status is used by teachers to adjust their ongoing instructional procedures or by students to adjust their current learning-tactics.

First off, the sorts of tests typically employed in carrying out the formative assessment process are almost never standardized tests. Typically, those assessment devices are teacher-made classroom tests employed for the purpose of helping teachers or students decide whether to make changes in how they are instructing (for teachers) or trying to learn (for students). Hence my "emphatic" support of the formative-assessment process (and as Dylan Wiliam's review of relevant research makes clear, formative assessment works wonderfully) should

definitely not be construed as support for standardized tests and, even more definitely, not support of using standardized tests for five-year old children.

I believe it possible to create standardized tests capable of benefitting children of that age, because almost two decades ago I headed a group that built the Georgia Kindergarten Assessment Program for our state of Georgia. It was quite successful and was used for about a decade statewide with Georgia children. But the test was built with a specific purpose in mind, namely, to provide evidence to Georgia's kindergarten teachers regarding what next steps should be taken to help individual learners. Thus, *depending on the way a standardized test is constructed,* such tests could benefit children. In the U.S., I know of no kindergarten tests currently aimed at providing teachers or families with diagnostically useful information.

In our country, the most serious shortcoming of standardized tests is that we use them for the wrong purpose. An enormous number of seriously mistaken educational decisions are made as a consequence. So, whether the proposed standardized tests for 5-year old youngsters would be winners would depend chiefly on the way in which they were built. I am not optimistic about what would emerge in your setting.

Perhaps you are already familiar with the negative educational impact of the *Army Alpha*, in the U.S. But just in case you aren't, I am about to wrap up a three-page op/ed essay that I'll be sending off to news outlets after some additional sprucing. (It is attached.) Please don't use anything from it directly, for I still have honing to do, but it will indicate to you how we have made a century's worth of errors in how we use our standardized tests. I hope you can avoid some of the truly harmful educational mistakes made because of using the wrong standardized tests—with kids of any age!"

Jim
W. James Popham
Professor Emeritus, UCLA
[redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 09 January 2019 16:15
To: [redacted – exemption applies]; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Swinney must apologise to Parliament for manufacturing "fictional" academic support for P1 testing

[redacted – exemption applies]

Just back from Parli and mentioned to DFM, I'd run this past him.

[redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 09 January 2019 15:37
To: McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]; Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Swinney must apologise to Parliament for manufacturing "fictional" academic support for P1 testing

Happy with that from Newsdesk Colin. Thanks.
Policy – any additional points by 1600 please. If none, you happy for this go Colin, given DFM essentially signed this off last night – change of name notwithstanding. [redacted – exemption applies].

[redacted – exemption applies]
[redacted – exemption applies]
[redacted – exemption applies]

From: McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>
Sent: 09 January 2019 14:52
To: [redacted – exemption applies] Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]; Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]
[redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Swinney must apologise to Parliament for manufacturing "fictional" academic support for P1 testing

[Four paragraphs redacted – exemption applies]

Alternative thoughts and comments very welcome.

Regards

Colin McAllister
[redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 09 January 2019 14:25
To: Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]

Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Swinney must apologise to Parliament for manufacturing “fictional” academic support for P1 testing
Importance: High

Thanks [redacted – exemption applies].

[Two paragraphs redacted – exemption applies]

Thanks.
[redacted – exemption applies].

From: Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>
Sent: 09 January 2019 14:17
To: [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Swinney must apologise to Parliament for manufacturing “fictional” academic support for P1 testing

[redacted – exemption applies]

I think we should simply update the line to reference Prof Popham:

[Two paragraphs redacted – exemption applies]

Andy Bruce
Deputy Director, Improvement, Attainment and Wellbeing
Learning Directorate

[redacted – exemption applies]

Learning Directorate **|** Area 2C North **|** Victoria Quay **|** Edinburgh **|** EH6 6QQ
Buidheann-Stiùiridh an Ionnsachaidh **|** Raon 2B Tuath **|** Cidhe Bhictòria **|** Dùn Èideann **|** EH6 6QQ

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 09 January 2019 12:47
To: [redacted – exemption applies]; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Swinney must apologise to Parliament for manufacturing "fictional" academic support for P1 testing

Thanks [redacted – exemption applies].
[redacted – exemption applies], happy to keep this one given prior involvement.
[redacted – exemption applies].

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 09 January 2019 12:45
To: [redacted – exemption applies]; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Swinney must apologise to Parliament for manufacturing "fictional" academic support for P1 testing

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First off, the sorts of tests typically employed in carrying out the formative assessment process are almost never standardized tests. Typically, those assessment devices are teacher-made classroom tests employed for the purpose of helping teachers or students decide whether to make changes in how they are instructing (for teachers) or trying to learn (for students). Hence my "emphatic" support of the formative-assessment process (and as Dylan Wiliam's review of relevant research makes clear, formative assessment works wonderfully) should definitely not be construed as support for standardized tests and, even more definitely, not support of using standardized tests for five-year old children.

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Jim
W. James Popham
Professor Emeritus, UCLA
[redacted – exemption applies]

Thanks
[redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 09 January 2019 11:13
To: McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Swinney must apologise to Parliament for manufacturing "fictional" academic support for P1 testing

Thanks Colin. Will re-issue now.
[redacted – exemption applies].

From: McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>
Sent: 09 January 2019 11:10

To: [redacted – exemption applies]; Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Swinney must apologise to Parliament for manufacturing "fictional" academic support for P1 testing

Yes, hold the line

Regards
Colin McAllister
[redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 09 January 2019 11:04
To: Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>
Subject: Swinney must apologise to Parliament for manufacturing "fictional" academic support for P1 testing
Importance: High

Good morning all. Press Association running piece on Lib Dem new release around P1 testing - below.
Having read it, assuming our line from yesterday (below) is sufficient? However, checking with policy and spads (Colin) for surety ahead of sending on.
Appreciate any responses promptly – if required.
Thanks.
[redacted – exemption applies].

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

[Two paragraphs redacted – exemption applies]

EMAIL CHAIN 9

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 09 January 2019 14:01
To: Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>
Subject: Dylan William

David

The link to Dylan William's article.

https://gregashman.wordpress.com/2018/08/11/an-interview-with-dylan-wiliam/

EMAIL CHAIN 10

From: Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>
Sent: 09 January 2019 17:34
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>
Cc: Robertson FMG (Fiona) (Director of Learning) <Fiona.Robertson@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SNSAs - Dylan Williams

[redacted – exemption applies]

- The FOI request in question was received on 17 August 2018 from James Parry (Scottish Liberal Democrats). The FOI request asked a number of questions in relation to DFM's appearance on BBC Radio Scotland the previous day (16 August). I have attached a copy of the response that was sent.

[Three paragraphs redacted – exemption applies] the response was issued as follows:

"The approach to national standardised assessment was developed after extensive engagement with teachers, parents, children and academics. There is a wide ranging support for formative assessment amongst the teaching profession and there is extensive research highlighting the positive benefits of formative assessment. For example, Dylan William, Emeritus Professor of Educational Assessment at University College London, presents research that shows formative assessment practices have a much greater impact on educational achievement than most other reforms. W. James Popham has authored books, journals and research reports and explains the research supporting formative assessments. We have also drawn evidence from a range of advice and publications, including from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) – specifically their publication Synergies for Better Learning: An International Perspective on Evaluation and Assessment and Education Policy Outlook 2015."

[Two paragraphs redacted – exemption applies]

- The Scottish Government's recent response to the Education and Skills Committee as part of its enquiry on SNSA also makes the case for how the assessments have been developed for formative purposes. I have copied the most relevant part of the submission below:

"The OECD's 2011 paper "Student Standardised Testing: Current Practices in OECD Countries and A Literature Review" identifies many of these themes and also sets out key lessons for countries in their use of standardised assessments. Building on

this, the OECD also made some helpful observations in its review of education in Scotland, based on international evidence, on how standardised assessments could be successfully incorporated within an effective assessment system:

"Standardised assessment tools can be used formatively in all parts of the system if they are referenced to the curriculum, flexible in their use, and provide high quality just-in-time information for teaching and learning, while at the same time having efficient ways to aggregate the results through the system."

In developing the SNSA model as part of the National Improvement Framework, great care was taken therefore to avoid a high stakes approach (as described in paragraphs 15-17 above) and to ensure the formative benefits for learning and teaching described by the OECD.

This was recognised by the Scottish Government's International Council of Education Providers (ICEA) in its 2018 formal report in June 2018 the Council said:

"The ICEA initially expressed reservations about the introduction of these assessments and shared their views with the Scottish Government. The ICEA notes however, that the assessments are not "high stakes tests" and the results do not determine any key future outcomes for young people, such as which school they go to, or whether they can progress to the next level. There is no pass or fail, and the ICEA notes that this approach to assessment and its central interpretation can be of formative use."

At the subsequent meeting of the ICEA in September 2018, Dr Allison Skerrett (from the University of Texas, Austin) speaking on behalf of the Council said that Scotland had carefully designed the assessments, their modes of delivery and their purpose. She said that Scotland has a real opportunity to be a model for other systems that have employed standardised assessments."

- Finally, the formative nature of the assessments was also a key point made in the SNSA User Review, published in August 2018:

"The use of standardised assessment is one part of the Broad General Education (BGE) assessment model, which is based around teacher professional judgement of children's progress and the achievement of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) levels. There is a strong educational rationale for using a range of assessment evidence, rather than a single source, to judge children progress, particularly in early years and primary. In order to support teachers and strengthen the consistency of teacher judgement, the Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSA) were developed after extensive engagement with teachers, parents, children and academics. A design group including teacher professional associations influenced the specification of assessments. The SNSA assess aspects of literacy and numeracy and highlight next steps in learning for individual children. ***Assessment which highlights next steps in learning is known as 'formative' assessment, as opposed to 'summative' assessment which provides a score or pass/fail. The use of standardised assessment in some other countries is summative and high stakes, whilst the SNSA approach is formative and is based around next steps in learning. The SNSA are not 'high stakes' but rather a part of normal***

classroom activity that help to identify next steps in learning for individual children, whilst supporting teacher professional judgements."

Andy

Andy Bruce
Deputy Director, Improvement, Attainment and Wellbeing
Learning Directorate

[redacted – exemption applies]

Learning Directorate **|** Area 2C North **|** Victoria Quay **|** Edinburgh **|** EH6 6QQ
Buidheann-Stiùiridh an Ionnsachaidh **|** Raon 2B Tuath **|** Cidhe Bhictòria **|** Dùn Èideann **|** EH6 6QQ

From: [redacted – exemption applies] **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Sent: 09 January 2019 11:15
To: Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>; Robertson FMG (Fiona) (Director of Learning) <Fiona.Robertson@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>
Subject: SNSAs - Dylan Williams

Andy

[One paragraph redacted – exemption applies]

I'd be grateful if advice could be with us at some point this afternoon please.

Happy to discuss.
[redacted – exemption applies]

[redacted – exemption applies] | Deputy Private Secretary to John Swinney MSP, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills | The Scottish Government | Web: www.gov.scot |
[redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments. Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

4. Please provide a copy of any notes or other such materials prepared for the First Minister to assist in the answering of questions on the above topic at FMQs on 10 January 2019.

EMAIL CHAIN 11

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 10 January 2019 10:17
To: [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: FW: FMQ Commission- Education Due Monday 7th January at 3pm

Hi [redacted – exemption applies]

FMQ brief attached.

[redacted – exemption applies]

[24 lines redacted – exemption applies]

- [one line redacted – out of scope]
- The Scottish Government referenced Professor Wiliam and Professor Popham as having produced research that supported of a formative approach to assessment.
- It was not our intention to imply that they supported the Scottish National Standardised Assessments.
- Our view is that, in line with best practice internationally, the assessments provide formative, diagnostic information to teachers on aspects of literacy and numeracy.
- It is obviously the case that other people can take other views. And it is certainly the case that Professor Wiliam does not share our view of the value of the SNSA.
- [7 lines redacted – out of scope]

Other experts have backed the introduction of standardised assessments

In its 2015 review of education in Scotland the OECD said:

- **QUOTE:** *"Standardised assessment tools can be used formatively in all parts of the system if they are referenced to the curriculum, flexible in their use, and provide high quality just-in-time information for teaching and learning, while at the same time having efficient ways to aggregate the results through the system."*

The 2018 formal report of the International Council of Education Advisers said:

- **QUOTE:** *"The ICEA notes however, that the assessments are not "high stakes tests" and the results do not determine any key future outcomes for young people, such as which school they go to, or whether they can progress to the next*

level. There is no pass or fail, and the ICEA notes that this approach to assessment and its central interpretation can be of formative use."

Professor Lindsay Paterson, in his written evidence to the Education and Skills Committee, states that the assessments have several strengths.

- This includes providing *"a useful reality check, allowing teachers to calibrate their own judgements against independent criteria.".*

Professor Christine Merrell (Durham University), in her written evidence to the Education and Skills Committee states:

- **QUOTE:** *"Baseline assessment is an essential component of monitoring progress across the primary phase, and the start of Primary 1 is a good starting point for monitoring. Providing teachers with high-quality information about their pupils' development linked to research-based effective strategies for teaching and learning will enable them to make the most of this crucial developmental period of children's lives."*

In an article in the Herald on 18 September 2018, Professor Sue Ellis said:

- **QUOTE:** *"In Scotland, professional judgments, not raw test scores, decide children's attainment levels. Standardised assessments are a tool to moderate such judgments across the country; letting educators check their judgments is neither overly-optimistic nor overly-harsh."*

"Providing a free, well-designed assessment for everyone seems a good idea. We should focus on the actual issues and drain the mix of entrenched ideology and politics from the discussion."

[30 lines redacted – out of scope]

From: McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>
Sent: 09 January 2019 17:21
To: [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted; ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]; Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: FMQ Commission- Education Due Monday 7th January at 3pm
Small tweaks from me tracked in attached.

Regards

Colin McAllister
[redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 09 January 2019 16:31
To: [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]; Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: FMQ Commission- Education Due Monday 7th January at 3pm

Thanks, [redacted – exemption applies],

COLIN – I would be grateful if you could check this version please.

[redacted – exemption applies]

[redacted – exemption applies]
[redacted – exemption applies]
[redacted – exemption applies]
[redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 09 January 2019 16:10
To: [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]; Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: FMQ Commission- Education Due Monday 7th January at 3pm

Hi [redacted – exemption applies]

James Popham made the comment in a letter to Andy Denholm at the Herald (email chain attached). [Two paragraphs redacted – exemption applies]

Let me know if you need anything more.

[redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 09 January 2019 15:22
To: [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox

<ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]; Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: FMQ Commission- Education Due Monday 7th January at 3pm

[redacted – exemption applies] – thanks.

[Two paragraphs redacted – exemption applies]

Can you take a look at my additional comments in the attached please? [One paragraph redacted – exemption applies]

Grateful if you could take a look and get back to me before 4pm.

COLIN – Can you take a look at this when returned please?

Thanks

[redacted – exemption applies]

[redacted – exemption applies]
[redacted – exemption applies]
[redacted – exemption applies]
[redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 09 January 2019 14:56
To: [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]; Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: FMQ Commission- Education Due Monday 7th January at 3pm

[redacted – exemption applies]

We have updated the FMQ note as requested, including supportive quotes about SNSA, and placing the SNSAs in the wider context of assessment as set out in [redacted – exemption applies] email below.

Let us know if you need anything more.

[redacted – exemption applies]

[redacted – exemption applies]\ Policy Manager \ Scottish Government \ Learning Directorate \ National Improvement Framework Unit \ 2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ \ Tel [redacted – exemption applies]

[One document redacted – exemption applies]

From: Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>
Sent: 09 January 2019 14:37
To: [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: FW: FMQ Commission- Education Due Monday 7th January at 3pm
Importance: High

Sorry – please use this version with my tweaks.

Thanks

Andy

Andy Bruce
Deputy Director, Improvement, Attainment and Wellbeing
Learning Directorate

[redacted – exemption applies]

Learning Directorate **|** Area 2C North **|** Victoria Quay **|** Edinburgh **|** EH6 6QQ
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From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 09 January 2019 14:12
To: [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: FW: FMQ Commission- Education Due Monday 7th January at 3pm
Importance: High

Hi all – revised version of the FMQ below.

[One paragraph redacted – exemption applies]

I know [redacted – exemption applies] and [redacted – exemption applies] are looking at the supportive quotes point, which have still to be added in before this can go back to [redacted – exemption applies].

Thanks,
[redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 09 January 2019 13:06
To: [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: Re: FMQ Commission- Education Due Monday 7th January at 3pm

[One paragraph redacted – exemption applies]

Hope that helps,
[redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 09 January 2019 11:42
To: Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: FW: FMQ Commission- Education Due Monday 7th January at 3pm
Importance: High

Andy/David

Forwarding this request on from the FMQ team. I'll do a bit of digging on this and see what I can find but any advice on this would be much appreciated.

Note that the deadline is 3pm.

Thanks,
[redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 09 January 2019 11:33
To: [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: FMQ Commission- Education Due Monday 7th January at 3pm

[redacted – exemption applies] – thanks.

I have updated the briefing and this is attached. Can you look at my request please – namely for a specific section that sets out the expert opinion that does back us on SNSA. This will need to set out who said it and what their evidence is (suitably briefly explained).

[One paragraph redacted – exemption applies]

Can you take a look please and get something back to me by 3pm.

Thanks

[redacted – exemption applies]

[One document redacted – exemption applies]

[redacted – exemption applies]
[redacted – exemption applies]
[redacted – exemption applies]
[redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 09 January 2019 11:08
To: [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: FMQ Commission- Education Due Monday 7th January at 3pm

Hi [redacted – exemption applies]

Attached response.

Thanks,
[redacted – exemption applies]

[One document redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 09 January 2019 11:07
To: [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]>
Cc: [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]; ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: FMQ Commission- Education Due Monday 7th January at 3pm

[redacted – exemption applies] – thanks for the below.

Can I be sent the FOI response that went to the Lib Dems on this please?

Thanks,

[redacted – exemption applies]

[redacted – exemption applies]
[redacted – exemption applies]
[redacted – exemption applies]
[redacted – exemption applies]

From: [redacted – exemption applies]
Sent: 08 January 2019 17:30
To: ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>; [redacted – exemption applies]
[redacted – exemption applies]
Cc: [redacted – exemption applies] [redacted – exemption applies]
Subject: RE: FMQ Commission- Education Due Monday 7th January at 3pm

Hi [redacted – exemption applies] – to clarify Andy Denholm from the Herald was asking for lines to respond to Professor Wiliams on the back of an FoI response he was referenced within. It will not be a story.

I've updated the top box including the response we've suggested. Let me know if you need anything further.

Thanks,
[redacted – exemption applies]

[One document redacted – exemption applies]

Buidheann-Stiùiridh an Ionnsachaidh
Learning Directorate

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

T: 0131-244 6577
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]

By email

Our ref: FOI/18/02237
Date: 14 September 18

Dear [redacted]

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

Thank you for your request dated 17 August 2018 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

Your request

You asked:

1.
(a) On what date did BBC Radio Scotland first contact the Scottish Government requesting that the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills appear on their phone in (as he did on 16 August 2018).

(b) Please provide a copy of all the correspondence and discussions, internal and external, relating to this appearance.

2.
Please provide a copy of all the evidence that the Scottish Government has that there are "people who emphatically argue for P1 assessments", as stated by the Cabinet Secretary on 16 August 2018.

3.
(a) Please provide a copy of the evidence cited by the Cabinet Secretary on 16 August 2018 that shows the standardised numeracy assessment takes on average 22 minutes for a P1 child to complete the test.

(b) What assessment has the Scottish Government made, or what evidence has it received, on the amount of time on average that the P1 tests take (i) P1 teachers and (ii) other primary school staff to administer? Please provide a copy of all the data the government has on this.

Response to your request

On what date did BBC Radio Scotland first contact the Scottish Government requesting that the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills appear on their phone in (as he did on 16 August 2018).

BBC Radio Scotland first contacted the Scottish Government on Wednesday 8 August 2018.

Please provide a copy of all the correspondence and discussions, internal and external, relating to this appearance.

While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance we are unable to provide some of the information you have requested because exemptions under section 38(1)(b) personal information, applies to that information. The reasons why this exemption applies are explained in the annex of this letter.

Having considered all relevant information I have attached a pdf file with all available information included.

[PDF file to be attached once redacted – currently word doc]

Please provide a copy of all the evidence that the Scottish Government has that there are "people who emphatically argue for P1 assessments", as stated by the Cabinet Secretary on 16 August 2018.

The approach to national standardised assessment was developed after extensive engagement with teachers, parents, children and academics. There is a wide ranging support for formative assessment amongst the teaching profession and there is extensive research highlighting the positive benefits of formative assessment. We have drawn evidence from a range of advice and publications, including from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) – specifically their publication Synergies for Better Learning: An International Perspective on Evaluation and Assessment and Education Policy Outlook 2015.

The use or standardised assessment in Scotland is not new, the SNSAs build on current practice – 29 of the 32 local authorities were already using standardised assessments. This sustained practice over a significant number of years provided early diagnostic information to teachers to inform next steps in learning. The introduction of SNSA, aligned to Curriculum for Excellence and designed specifically for the Scottish educational context, has ensured consistency across Scotland. Extensive engagement with practitioners show that the SNSA is both welcomed and is an upgrade on previous standardised assessments. Working with Education Scotland, case studies are being produced to further support this.

Please provide a copy of the evidence cited by the Cabinet Secretary on 16 August 2018 that shows the standardised numeracy assessment takes on average 22 minutes for a P1 child to complete the test.

Having considered all relevant information I have attached a pdf file of a 2017-18 Assessment Duration Report with all available information included.

Assessment Duration Report 17-

What assessment has the Scottish Government made, or what evidence has it received, on the amount of time on average that the P1 tests take (i) P1 teachers and (ii) other primary school staff to administer? Please provide a copy of all the data the government has on this.

While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance the Scottish Government does not have the information you have requested. The Scottish Government has not made any assessment or gathered any data on the amount of time on average that P1 tests take P1 teachers and other primary school staff to administer.

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 Fiona Robertson, Director of Learning, Area 2B-North, Victoria Quay, Leith, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ, email: fiona.robertson@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

[redacted]
National Improvement Framework Unit

ANNEX 1

An exemption applies

An exemption under section 38(1)(b) of FOISA (personal information) applies to a small amount of the information requested because it is personal data of a third party, ie names and contact details of individuals, and disclosing it would contravene the data protection principles in Schedule 1 to the Data Protection Act 1998. This exemption is not subject to the 'public interest test', so we are not required to consider if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption.