

The following information is correspondence sent to the Permanent Secretary from a member of the public about a request made under FOISA to the Scottish Government about Scottish independence.

From: [Redacted S.38(i)(b)]
Sent: 20 August 2020 15:52
To: Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>
Subject: FOI Request

From
[Redacted S.38(i)(b)]

20th August 2020

To
Ms Lesley Evans
Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government

Dear Ms Evans

I wrote to you on 11th June 2020 concerning my Freedom of Information enquiry reference 202000046884.

You "asked" [Redacted S.38(i)(b)] to undertake a review of the initial response to the FOI request. Not unexpectedly, his review dated 7th July 2020 agreed with the initial decision

This still leaves the contradiction of your statement that work being done by the Scottish Civil Service on preparation of Independence papers and planning detracted from the day-to-day work required to run Scotland, or words to that effect. When you made this comment you must have had information indicating what amount of work was being done on independence.

It is the stated aim of the current Scottish Government, and the First Minister, to be open and transparent, and I would have thought that this would apply to the Civil Service as well. Surely in this spirit you are able to back-up what you have said in respect of work on independence matters.

The information that I am seeking is to my mind reasonable for the public to know, in a liberal democracy. Particularly in the case of matters that have been uppermost in the affairs of Scotland in the last few years the voters should know what is being done on behalf of the government by the civil service in respect of independence. In the circumstances it should not matter whether such information causes embarrassment to politicians or not.

[Redacted – Out of Scope]

I repeat my request that you advise what information you have concerning the time spent by the Scottish Civil Service on Independence matters. If I do not get a satisfactory response I, shall submit a request to the Scottish Information Commissioner to investigate the matter and also write to the

Head of the United Kingdom Civil Service, Sir Mark Sedwill, or Alex Chisholm in his capacity as Chief Operating Officer for the Civil Service , whoever is the appropriate person at the time, to review how this has been dealt with

I look forward to a response from yourself

Yours sincerely

[Redacted S.38(i)(b)]