

## **ANNEX**

### An exemption applies

An exemption under section 30(c) of FOISA (prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs) applies to some of the information requested. Disclosing this information would substantially prejudice our ability to conduct business because substantial prejudice would arise. As you will understand from the content provided, the exempted contents comprises detailed, staff-related operational plans for personnel in the Scottish Government Directorate for Social Care and Mental Health. The ability to reflect on current staffing and plan operations in this manner is important for government to be able to function. Making this kind of routine planning subject to release would inhibit staff at all levels from engaging in planning and ultimately prejudice the effective operation of government. Therefore it would constitute substantial prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs, in terms of the exemption.

This exemption is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption. We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosing information as part of open, transparent and accountable government. However, there is a greater public interest in ensuring that is not prejudiced to ensure that the Scottish Government is able to conduct this aspect of its business effectively.