

The following information is an extract. It is provided as an extract because it comes from a document containing other information outwith the scope of your request.

2. Update : Future Policy Development

[Redacted] outlined independence prospectus work, mentioning the first paper already published and one upcoming on 'renewing democracy with independence', to be released shortly. Work continues on citizenship and **[Redacted]** prospectus papers, and **[Redacted]** invited members to input on reviewing drafts in due course.

Members of the group (BK, HK, RM, DE) expressed interest in contributing and being part of informal conversations around paper development. Agreement for **[Redacted]** to approach EAG for comments on papers as required. **[Redacted]** noted papers would set out policy proposals which the current administration would pursue if elected to be government of an independent Scotland. It was noted that the level of policy detail explored could be expected to vary across papers.

Action: [Redacted] to approach EAG via email to provide current drafts and seek input in due course.

Section 30(c) – Prejudice to the Effective Conduct of Public Affairs

An exemption under Section 30(c) (Prejudice to the Effective Conduct of Public Affairs) of FOISA applies to some of the information you have requested. The reason why this exemption applies is because releasing details of potential future Scottish Government publications, which may not reflect final decisions taken, would result in inaccurate information on the Scottish Government's proposals for an independent Scotland being published, thereby undermining the Scottish Government's ability to effectively and accurately engage and communicate with the public. This in turn would be likely to impair the Government's ability to take forward its work on policy development for an independent Scotland. This would constitute substantial prejudice to the 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, and to inform public debate. However, there is a greater public interest in enabling the Scottish Government to effectively and accurately engage and communicate with the public on its proposals for an independent Scotland without the risk of these proposals being prejudiced by information, which doesn't reflect final decisions taken, being released while the Scottish Government's work was still under development on a matter of significant political relevance and controversy.

Section 38(1)(b) – personal data of a third party

An exemption under section 38(1)(b) of FOISA (Personal Information) applies to some of the information requested because it is personal data of a third party and disclosing it would contravene the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation and in section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018. 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.