

## Annex A

An exemption under section 29(1(a) of FOISA applies to some of the information you have requested.

This exemption has been applied as the information relates to the formulation of the Scottish Government's policy on the Equally Safe Strategy.

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 lies in favour of upholding the exemption. We recognise that there is a greater public interest in high quality policy and decision-making, and in the properly considered implementation and development of policies and decisions. This means that Ministers and officials need to be able to consider all available options and to debate those rigorously, to fully understand their possible implications.

Their candour in doing so will be affected by their assessment of whether the discussions the Equally Safe strategy will be disclosed in the near future, when it may undermine or constrain the Government's view on that policy while it is still under discussion and development.