



HEADQUARTERS
Calton House
5 Redheughs Rigg
Edinburgh
EH12 9HW

Our Ref: HQ 17142

20 November 2017

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your recent freedom of information request, which was received on 23 October 2017. This gives a statutory deadline for responding of 20 November 2017 under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

You asked the following, and for ease of reference I have copied your original request for information (RFI) as follows.

1. RFI 1 – Any internal briefing prepared for Government ministers before the decision to place two community custodial units in Maryhill and Dundee.

I have now completed my search for the information which you have requested.

The authority has considered your request carefully. The authority endeavors to provide information wherever possible but on this occasion it is not possible to comply with your request. The authority can confirm that 3 internal briefings fall within the remit of your request but after consideration has concluded that the information contained in the briefings should not be released and exemptions have been applied under sections 29 (1) (a) and section 30 (b) (i) and (ii). I would like to explain why the authority considers the information to be exempt.

Under **Section 29 (1) (a)**, information is exempt if it relates to the formulation or development of government policy.

Under **Section 30 (b) (i) and (ii)**, information is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, inhibit substantially the free and frank provision of advice or the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation.

Community Custody Units (CCUs) form a key part of the Scottish Government's new approach to managing women in custody and, as such, the policy for developing and operationalizing these units requires careful and sensitive deliberation. Policy discussions are still ongoing and at this stage, the authority considers that to release the briefings would substantially prejudice its ability to achieve the desired outcomes. It should also be noted that a decision about the location of the CCU in Dundee has not yet been reached therefore it would not be appropriate to release these briefings at this stage. Furthermore, release may impact on the authority's ability to work

constructively with those who are key to the success of the CCUs.

If you are unhappy with this response to your request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review, by writing The Chief Executive, Calton House, 5 Redheughs Rigg, Edinburgh, EH12 9HW. Your request should explain why you wish a review to be carried out, and should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely,