

Our Ref HQ16047

27th June 2016

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your request dated 30 May 2016 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) for:

- “Could you please provide a timeline on when potential sites were ruled out with regards to the proposed new Highland prison? I would also like to know who was involved in any discussions and meetings regarding the decisions to exclude the 11 sites (and other 2 potential sites later added – Easter Bogbain and Knocknagael). Please provide correspondence, dates and attendees of meetings and minutes relating to these decisions.”

As requested please find attached a copy of the site search timeline information. An indicative site search timeline was included on the presentation banners used at the public consultation event on 26 May, copies of which are available on the SPS website via the link below.

<http://www.sps.gov.uk/Corporate/Information/HMPHighlandProposal.aspx>

I can confirm that the decision on whether or not to take forward an interest in any potential site was taken by staff from within the SPS Estates and Technical Services in-house design and property team, the then Director of Finance and Business Services and with advice from our appointed acquisition and planning consultants and was based on information which has been noted in the Summary of the Potential Sites Reviewed for the Location of HMP Highland paper. This paper is also available on the SPS website via the above link.

In line with the recommendations made in the October 2009 assessment report prepared by Drivers Jonas a decision was taken by the Director of Finance and Business Services and SPS Estates and Technical Services in-house design and property team to focus initially on seeking agreement to acquire the HIE owned site at Beechwood Farm. As a consequence no further action was taken on the remainder of the 12 sites which had been under consideration at that time.

Further detail on the reasons certain of the sites noted above were not progressed is contained in the summary paper. The paper also includes details of the two additional sites at Easter Bogbain and Knocknagael Farm.

Copies of papers prepared for the high level examination of the Ashton Farm site and a summary document, detailing the main findings of the site investigation reports prepared on the Longman Landfill site are enclosed for your information. I have also enclosed copies of relevant correspondence. Information within these emails has been exempted in accordance with the following section of FOISA:

- Personal information 38(1) (b) of FOISA applies to some of the information requested. This exemption applies because the information is personal data of a third party and disclosing it would contravene the data protection principles in Schedule 1 to the Data Protection Act 1998.

If you are unhappy with this response to your request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review, by writing to 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

Director Strategy and Innovation