

Subject: Request to access files concerning Scotland's Education policies (NRS ref.: SC12/8/1-3 and ED14/569).

FOI reference: FOI/19/01297

Date received: 21 May 2019

Date responded: 26 June 2019

Information requested:

Request to access files concerning Scotland's Education policies, namely, 'Scottish Cabinet Correspondence: Education Department' 2000-2003 (NRS ref.: SC12/8/1-3) and also 'Education (Scotland) Bill: Schools White Paper' 1996-1997 (NRS.: ED14/569).

NRS Response:

SC12/8/1-3 are open to public access. These files have been imaged and can be viewed in our search room using the Virtual Volumes software. Please use the references SC12/8/1, SC12/8/2 and SC12/8/3 to view each file on the public access computers located in our Historic Search Room. Access is to the digital surrogates, and the original files will not be produced in the search room. Further information is available on our website at: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/visit-us/historical-search-room>.

Under section 25(1) of FOISA, we do not have to provide information if it is already reasonably accessible by inspection or copying, even if a payment has to be made for it.

A sensitivity review has been undertaken on ED14/569 ('Education (Scotland) Bill: Schools White Paper' 1996-1997) by the Information Governance branch of the Scottish Government. As a result of this, some information in the file has been redacted due to sensitivity issues.

An exemption under section 38(1)(b) of FOISA applies to this information because it is personal data of third parties 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.

The redacted copy of ED14/569 is available in digital form at the National Records of Scotland.

This can be viewed in the Historical Search Room at General Register House, 2 Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH1 3YY. Further information is available on our website at: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/visit-us/historical-search-room>.

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