The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

Katy Clark MSP
The Scottish Parliament

16 November 2026

Dear Katy,

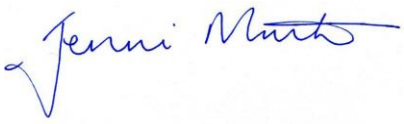
Freedom of Information (FOI) legislative reform

I write further to my letter of 8 October. The Committee had a wide-ranging evidence session with the Scottish Information Commissioner on 5 November about his annual report, priorities and challenges. We afterwards agreed to write to Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body to underline the need for the Commissioner's office to be properly funded, in response to much increased demand, to ensure that the vital rights to freedom of information enshrined in statute continue to be real-life rights that individuals know about and can use.

During the session, I asked the Commissioner for his views on the need for legislative reform, referencing your Member's bill. His response, and those of other Commission staff, can be found in columns 27-30 of the Official Report of the meeting.

In the discussion of the evidence after the session, the Committee agreed that I should write to you setting out that the Committee is open to legislative reform in this area to ensure the law remains fit for purpose for current circumstances, but has no plans at present to bring forward a Committee Bill on FOI. I hope this clarification is useful.

Yours sincerely,



Jenni Minto MSP
Convener

Contact: Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email sppa.committee@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.