

PUBLIC AUDIT AND POST-LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

POST LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY - FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (Scotland) ACT 2002

SUBMISSION FROM : the Ethical Standards Commissioner

In your view, what effects has the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) had, both positive and negative.

We are a small organisation, receiving only ten FOI requests in 2018-19. Preparation and initial training for the implementation of FOI did require resources. However, it is now a straight-forward process to manage. Overall, we consider the impact of FOISA to be positive, encouraging the public sector to act in a more transparent and accountable manner.

Have the policy intentions of FOISA been met and are they being delivered? If not, please give reasons for your response.

Given the place FOI has in our work, we have no detailed knowledge of, nor need to know, the policy intentions of the Act and therefore have no comments to make.

Are there any issues in relation to the implementation of and practice in relation to FOISA? If so, how should they be addressed?

The FOI regime is well established and straight-forward to manage. The Scottish Information Commissioner's office communicates the requirements clearly and provides a wide-range of learning materials. Other training sources are widely-available.

Could the legislation be strengthened or otherwise improved in any way? Please specify why and in what way.

We have no comments to make.

Are there any other issues you would like to raise in connection with the operation of FOISA?

None