

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST TO GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL

Dear Mr xxxxxxxxx

Request under the Freedom of Information Act (Scotland) 2002

Thank you for your email received on 26 September 2008 requesting that the following information be provided to you:

- “1) How many people working for the council of attended training courses organized by Common Purpose in the last few years
- 2) If someone did can you tell me who attended?

The answer to the question 1 can go, in relation to the years as far as you can, as I understand it's not easy to have this information forcurses attended may years ago.”

I can confirm that the Council is treating your request as a request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

On inspecting our records and the information which we hold, it would appear that some of the information requested is covered by an exemption or exemptions contained within the Act. We are required to explain why we believe this to be the case.

We are unable to provide you with the names of the staff members who attended courses organised by Common Purpose. This information is, in our opinion, exempt from a request under section 1 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 because of the exemption contained in section 38(1)(b) of the Act. In other words, in our opinion disclosure of the information would involve disclosing personal data as defined in the Data Protection Act 1998 (as amended), and that such disclosure would breach the Data Protection Principles contained in Schedule 1 Part I of that Act. If we provided you with this information, we would be providing you with personal information relating to individuals, therefore we are unable to comply with this part of your request.

While we believe the exemption is Section 38(1)(b) applies in this case, we would still be obliged to release this information in response to your request unless the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Glasgow City Council acknowledges the significant public interest in openness and transparency and therefore recognised that any request under Section 1 of the Act is potentially in the public interest. However,

on this occasion we consider that disclosure of this information would be a breach of the first data protection principle.

I can advise you that since 2005, 4 members of staff have attended courses organised by Common Purpose.

If you are dissatisfied with the way Glasgow City Council has dealt with your request you are entitled to require the Council to review its decision. Please note that for a review to take place you must:

- Lodge a written requirement for a review within 40 working days of the date of this letter
- Include a correspondence address and a description of the original request and the reason why you are dissatisfied
- Address your request to the Solicitor to the Council:

The Solicitor to the Council
Glasgow City Council
City Chambers
George Square
Glasgow G2 1DU

Email: ian.drummond@ced.glasgow.gov.uk

You will receive notice of the results of the review within 20 working days of receipt of your request. The notice will state the decision reached by the reviewing officer as well as details of how to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner if you are still dissatisfied with the Council's response. You must request an internal review by the Council before a complaint can be directed to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

If you have any further queries regarding this process, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely