

Judges shy of revealing their involvement with Common Purpose. But surely they should be proud to declare their participation in this wonderful charity?

I emailed the ministry of Justice to know which judge went to Common Purpose training courses.

I've got a letter saying that they cannot give me this information as it is regarded as a personal data and therefore, under section 40(3) of the FOI act is exempt.

They also say that section 40 (5)(b)(i) and 40 (5)(b)(ii) of the FOI act provides that the duty to confirm or deny did not arise if the information breaches the Data protection Act.

In relation to the Data Protection Act they argue that the information must be processed fairly and lawfully and by answering to my query they would breach this principle.

It would also breach the second principle that personal data is only obtained and disclosed for one or more specified purposes and the sixth principle of disclosure could be against the persons whose personal data it is data protection rights.

This is because disclosure to third parties would breach the fair processing principle contained in the DPA as it would be against a person's legitimate expectations under the act that their personal information, where it might be held, will be kept secure and not provided publicly to others except in limited circumstance such as investigations by the police.

I find this response really strange, why the reputation of a judge should be compromised if it's revealed he/she attended Common Purpose's courses?

They must have a lot to conceal.

Belfast council gave me the names without problems.

What you suggest me to do?

And what do you think of this story?