

Scottish Information Commissioner Minutes of the Quarterly Senior Management Team Meeting 30 April 2024 (Part 1) & 29 May 2024 (Part 2)

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Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Rd, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS

Tel: 01334 464610

enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

30 April 2024 Part 1

Present: Scottish Information Commissioner – David Hamilton (DH) (Chair)

Head of Policy & Information – Claire Stephen (CMS)

Finance and Administration Manager – Liz Brown (LB) (Minutes)

Finance and Administration Manager – Kim Berry (KB)

Apologies: Head of Corporate Services - Helen Gardner-Swift (HGS)

Head of Enforcement – Euan McCulloch (EM)

Details	Action	Target	Publish	Comments
	Ву	Completion	Yes /	
		Date	No	

1. Minutes, action points update and matters outstanding

		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	•			
1.	Th	e wiew of minutes – 08/03/24 & 27/03/24 e minutes were approved and will be published h the relevant papers			Yes	Minutes published in full
1.2		tion points update updates				
1.: •		atters outstanding heme of delegation				
	0	DH will speak to our DPO about the publication of staff names on the website and then consult with staff	DH	31/05/2024		
•	Eq	uality Monitoring – service users				
	0	The SMT agreed to put this on hold and a review will be carried out in 2025/26				
	0	LB will update the Governance Reporting Arrangements which is currently under review	LB	31/05/2024		



2. Ir	nformation Requests and Reviews, including Assu	urance Statement	
•	The SMT noted:	Partial	CR and
	o the Committee Report (CR), including the		exemptions/
	assurance statement		exceptions table
	o the information in the CR has been uploaded		published in full
	to the FOI and EIR statistics platform.		Summary table
•	The SMT agreed the publication		published <u>here</u>
	recommendations.		(Class 7)
•	DH also noted that:		
			Outcome of
	 he was interested in the number of requests being dealt with by similar sized public bodies, 		requests table
	and		not published – Exemption
	o the strategic review being carried out will look		s38(1)(b)
	at how we deal with requests made to this		300(1)(b)
	office.		
		<u> </u>	
3. S	subject Access Requests		1
•	The SMT noted:	Partial	CR published in
	o the CR		full
	o the information in the CR regarding the		Summary table
	number of subject access requests received		published here
	has been uploaded to the FOI and EIR		(Class 7)
	statistics platform.		
•	The SMT agreed the publication		Outcome of
	recommendations.		requests table
•	This quarterly committee report will now include		not published –
	details of all personal data requests.		Exemption
			s38(1)(b)
4. S	service Standards – Compliments/Complaints		1
•	The SMT noted the contents of the CR.	Partial	CR published in
•	The publication recommendations were agreed.		full 2 supporting
			papers –
			Exemption
			s38(1)(b)
5. E	nquiries Service		
•	The SMT noted the CR and agreed the publication	Yes	CR published in
	recommendations.		full
	 DH would like a rationalised report for future 		
	QSMTM's.		



6. Website

•	Deferred to QSMTM Q4 Part 2			N/A	N/A
. C	Quality Assurance – Investigations				
•	Report not required for 2023-24 but remains in Governance Reporting Arrangements (GRA) and QSMTM agendas until a review of arrangements is carried out in September 2024-25.			N/A	N/A
. K	ey Documents				
•	The key document spreadsheet was reviewed, and updates were provided by the meeting attendees.			Partial	Report published with the exception of
•	It was agreed that the following documents do not need to be classified as key documents:				comments column –
	 Model Induction Manual VC179950 as this should be a template 				Exemptions s30(b)(ii) and s38(1)(b)
	 Carbon Footprint Update Procedures VC156913 				330(1)(b)
•	KB will update the spreadsheet and the Register of Key Documents	KB	31/05/24		
•	DH will carry out a review of the following documents:	DL	31/05/24		
	 Register of Interest Policy & Guidance VC142876 				
	o References Policy and Procedure VC142878				
•	The Memorandum of Understanding between the Scottish Information Commissioner, the Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service and the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Scotland is due to be signed.				
•	CMS will ask the DHOE's to review the key documents where the Head of Enforcement is the responsible manager.	CMS	31/05/24		
•	The SMT agreed that the report is published with the exception of the column containing comments				
). U	K GDPR		•		
•	The SMT agreed that the GDPR working party should be disbanded.			N/A	N/A
•	A final meeting will be held to agree ownership of any outstanding actions.				



10. Interventions Report

•	Deferred to QSMTM Q4 Part 2		N/A	N/A

11. Workforce Plan Monitoring Report

•	The SMT discussed the Q4 section of 23/24 report.			Partial	Report published with
•	CMS will update the HOPI and HOE sections and then the 23/24 report will be signed off for the year.	CMS	31/05/24		the exception of comments column –
•	A new approach for 24/25 is being considered:				Exemptions s30(b)(ii) and
•	DH wants to look forward rather than back when reviewing the report and will create a draft report in a different format	DH	31/05/24		s38(1)(b)
•	KB will find the auditors recommendations on workforce planning and forward to DH.	KB	31/05/24		
•	The SMT agreed the publication of this report with the exception of the comments column.				

12. Strategic Risk Register 2023-24

•	DH will add his commentary to close the 23/24 register off.	DH	10/05/24	No	SRR withheld – Exemptions
•	DH has drafted the 24/25 strategic risk register (SRR) and explained his approach.				s30(b)(ii), s30(c) and s39(1)
•	He asked the SMT to review the scores before the next QSMTM.	SMT	Q2 QSMTM		
•	The SRR feeds into the operational risk register which DH will draft for discussion at the next SMT meeting.	DH	06/2024		

13. Information and Records Management

Deferred to QSMTM Q4 Part 2			N/A	N/A
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14. Equalities Monitoring – Staff

•	The report was noted by the SMT.			Partial	CR published in	
•	The SMT agreed that it was difficult to pull any key actions from the results as the response rate was low.				full Supporting papers – Exemption	
•	KB will look at the questions asked and the purpose of the survey and report back to the SMT at the next MSMTM.	КВ	06/2024		s38(1)(b)	



1	The publications recommendations were agreed				
	British Sign Language - Action Plan – report and	review			
	Deferred to QSMTM Q4 Part 2			N/A	N/A
; <u>.</u>	Employment Policy Update	,			
	Deferred to QSMTM Q4 Part 2			N/A	N/A
·.	Office Christmas/New Year closure				
'	The dates the office will close over Christmas and New Year was discussed.			N/A	N/A
	Dates proposed:				
	 The office premises will close on Thursday 19th December 2024 and will reopen on Monday 6th January 2025 				
	 Staff can work from home on Friday 20th, Monday 23rd and ½ day on Tuesday 24th December, before returning on Monday 6th January, however the SMT will encourage staff to take annual leave from close of business on Friday 20th December. 				
•	This will be communicated to staff	KB	25/06/24		
R	AOB				
	nployee Handbook			N/A	N/A
•	DH has updated the Employee Handbook to remove reference to the term 'remote working' when 'hybrid working' should be used.	DH	10/05/24		
•	LB will check for other guidance in VC that refers to remote working and update	LB	30/05/24		
•	A correction to paragraph 86 is required which DH will update.	DH	10/05/24		
•	Clarification on carry forward of leave will also be added to the Handbook and DH will email all staff to remind them to take leave due before the end of August.	DH	30/05/24		
La •	ptops and mobile phones during absence The SMT have agreed that if a member of staff is going to be off for more than 4 weeks then remote access to the network should be restricted – this				

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is for security reasons.



If a member of staff is going to be off for more than 3 months then the laptop and mobile phone should be returned to the office to ensure they are being kept up to date.				
This is at the discretion of the line manager and can be discussed with a member of the SMT				
LB to consider what policy these procedures should be included in and how this can be implemented.	LB	30/05/24		
Line management trainingCMS/KB to consider approach	CMS/KB	30/05/24		

31 May 2024 Part 2

Scottish Information Commissioner - Daren Hamilton (DH) (Chair) Present:

Head of Policy & Information – Claire Stephen (CMS) Finance and Administration Manager - Kim Berry (KB)
Finance and Administration Manager - Liz Brown (LB) (Minutes)

Apologies Head of Corporate Services - Helen Gardner-Swift (HGS)

Head of Enforcement – Euan McCulloch (EM)

19. Finance Report

•	The Committee Report (CR) and the Financial Summary – Variance Analysis as at 31 March 2024 were noted by the SMT			Yes	CR published in full
•	DH and KB will carry out a review of this report and agree any changes that may be required from Q1 24/25 onwards	DH/KB	Before the next QSMTM		Finance Report available here
•	The SMT agreed the publication recommendations				

20. Sickness Absence

•	The CR was noted	Partial	CR published
•	The SMT agreed that:		with the exception of
	 the issues arising in relation to ill health absence levels are known and mitigations are in place 		paragraphs 9 & 10 - Exemption s38(1)(b)
	o there were no issues in relation to the variance between the Commissioner's statistics and the national statistics which require further action		Paper 1 – published in fill Paper 2 –
•	The SMT agreed the publication recommendations.		withheld - Exemption s38(1)(b)



21. Statement of Expenditure – Public Services Reform Act 2010 (PSRA)

 The SMT noted the CR. The SMT approved the PS Statement 2023-24, subject 	•			Partial	CR published in full
 checking the figures precision Consultancy/Anderson External Consultancy 	rovided against External Strathern under	KB	25/06/24		PRSA Annual Expenditure Statement 2022- 23 withheld –
 updating the description Entertainment 	n under Hospitality &				Exemption s27
When reviewing the Stater that our internal guidance our interpretation of what is public relations may be too	should be reviewed as s likely to be in scope of	CMS	25/06/24		
The SMT agreed the public recommendations, subject check of the Statement					

22. Investigations Performance

			1			
•		e SMT noted the CR and the following points ere agreed:			Yes	CR published in full
	0	Para 7 has a typo	CMS	25/06/24		
	0	The SMT will review the report to make sure it reflects the current work patterns	SMT	Before the next		
	0	An additional paragraph will be added after para 22 to detail what measures have been put in place since the start of Q3 23/24	CMS	QSMTM 25/06/24		
•		e publication recommendations were agreed, bject to the required changes being made				

23. Website

•	The SMT noted the CR and agreed that future reporting on website performance is integrated into our Communications Strategy report			Yes	CR and Website Statistics
•	The Governance Reporting Arrangements 24/25 will be updated to reflect this	CMS	25/06/24		Report 2023-24 published in full
•	The SMT agreed the publication recommendations				

24. Interventions Report

Deferred to next MSMTM			N/A	N/A
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25.	Time take to pay suppliers				
•	The SMT noted the CR and agreed the publication recommendations			Yes	CR published in full
26.	Workforce Trends 2022-23				
•	The CR was noted by the SMT and the following discussed:			Yes	CR published in full
	o Para 5 is to be amended				
	 This report can now be incorporated into Workforce Planning 24/25 and the Governance Reporting Arrangements will be updated to reflect this 	DH	25/06/24		
•	The SMT agreed the publication recommendations				
27	Sustainable Growth Statement (PSR) and Sustain	ahla Day	velonment Ca	rhon Foo	torint
•	The SMT noted the CR	abic be		Yes	CR published in
•	The SMT approved the draft Statement on Sustainable Growth 2023-24 for publication, subject to an addition to para 5 to make mention of	КВ	25/06/24		full Statement on
	the: o continuation of hybrid working and				Sustainable Growth 2023-24 published in full
	 how we encourage staff to travel using low carbon options 				– available <u>here</u>
•	The SMT agreed the publication recommendations, subject to the additional text in the Statement				
28	Quality Assurance - Enquiries		1	1	1
•	Deferred to next MSMTM			N/A	N/A
20	Information and Departs Management		<u> </u>		.l
•	Information and Records Management Deferred to next MSMTM			N/A	N/A
30.	Publication Schemes (PAs)	1	1	1	
•	The SMT noted the CR			Yes	CR published in full
•	It was agreed to update the wording in para 5 to reflect the position with the Scottish Pub Code Adjudicator	CMS	25/06/24		i.u.i
•	The SMT agreed the publication recommendations, subject to the change				



available <u>here</u>

31. Communication Strategy

	British Sign Language - Action Plan - report and Deferred to next MSMTM	IGVICW		N/A	N/A
3.	Employment Policy Update	l	.1	_1	
•	Deferred to next MSMTM			N/A	N/A
1.	Risk Management Annual Assurance Report The SMT discussed the actions to be taken to provide this assurance:			N/A	N/A
	 DH will review the Risk Management Policy 	DH	25/06/24		
	 The SMT will review and approve the Operational Risk Register 	SMT	25/06/24		
•	The Strategic Risk Register was approved. Key document actions to be completed	?	25/06/24		
•	Once these actions are complete DH will provide the assurance and submit a CR at an MSMTM				
5.	Prescribed Persons (Reports on Disclosure of Inf	ormatio	on) Regulation	ns 2017	
•	The SMT noted the CR			Yes	CR published
•	The SMT approved the report set out in Appendix A for publication				full
•	The SMT agreed the publication recommendations				Report in Appendix A

36. AOB

Draft Operational Plan 24/25			N/A	N/A
CMS will consider P&I and Enforcement areas	CMS	14/06/24		
KB/LB will consider CST areas	LB/KB	14/06/24		
DH will then review	DH	25/06/24		
To be added to the agenda for the next MSMTM	LB	07/05/24		
Draft Governance Reporting Arrangements				
To be reviewed by SMT and KB/LB and considered at the next MSMTM	SMT/ KB/LB	25/06/24		



Signed off by:

Date: 12 July 2024