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**Meeting of the Scottish Public Information Forum (SPIF)**

**Friday 26th September 11am – 1.05pm**

**Committee Room 2, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP**

**Will Scotland Become a Global FoI Leader?**

SPIF will celebrate 20 years since the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FoISA) became operational, reflect on two decades of progress and challenges in exercising the enforceable right to information and whether the default setting for official minds and processes has switched from a culture of secrecy to one of transparency.  2025 also provides an opportunity for Scotland to be a global leader in progressive legal reform through Katy Clark’s [Freedom of Information Reform (Scotland) Bill](https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/s6/freedom-of-information-reform-scotland-bill). At a time when other countries are curbing civic activism and undermining FoI rights and duties, Scotland can lead the way by increasing the pro-active publication of information, strengthen the enforcement powers of the Scottish Information Commissioner and agree a new process to speed up the designation of providers of public services that currently operate in the shadows.

This meeting of SPIF has a global focus to inform and alert people to international best practice and the opportunity for Scotland to lead the way by fixing our outdated FoI law.

This meeting is part of the annual global celebrations for UNESCO’s ‘International Day for Universal Access to Information’ on 28th September which this year focuses on "[Ensuring Access to Environmental Information in the Digital Age".](https://www.unesco.org/en/days/universal-access-information)The date is shared with civil society advocates who celebrate ‘International Right to Know Day’.

**About SPIF**

CFoIS convenes SPIF to bring together rights holders, duty bearers, government and the Scottish Information Commissioner to discuss the practical enjoyment and enforcement of access to information rights. Learning from each other helps improve understanding and practice across and within sectors. SPIF is recognised in the [Scottish Government’s six FoI principles](https://www.gov.scot/publications/guide-to-information/) to foster and maintain “good working relationships on Freedom of Information with stakeholders such as other public authorities and the Scottish Public Information Forum.” Registration is free via [Eventbrite](https://www.cfois.scot/scottish-public-information-forum/) and the meeting will be in person or online using Teams. Electronic Notetakers will enable inclusive communication.

**About CFoIS** The Campaign for Freedom of Information in Scotland (CFoIS) was established in 1984. It was led by the Scottish Consumer Council to improve public access to information, to secure the legal right to access information and to enforce that right. CFoIS believes that a strong democracy needs an informed and active civil society which has access to information through proactive publication or due to specific information requests. This is a counter to fake news and campaigns of disinformation. CFoIS is a SCIO number SC051263.

**The Agenda**

**11am**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair - Lord Wallace of Tankerness who as Scotland’s Deputy First Minister piloted the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Bill through the Scottish Parliament in 2002.

**5 mins**

**2. The FoI Global Ecosystem**

**Scotland Before FoI and Now**

David Clegg, Editor Dundee Courier

**20 mins**

**Scotland’s Opportunity**

The case for Scotland’s FoI Reform Billdomestically and globally

Katy Clark MSP who introduced the Freedom of Information Reform (Scotland) Bill.

**15 mins**

**Q&A**

**20 mins**

**Break**

**12 - 12.15 Break** Tea/coffee

**Will Scotland Become a Global FoI Leader?**

All of Scotland’s FoI Commissioners will reflect on two decades of progress and challenges in the right to information: Kevin Dunion, Rosemary Agnew, Daren Fitzhenry and David Hamilton – approx. 8 minutes each for observations/analysis.

**12.15**

**12.45**

**4. Reports**

* Minute and Matters Arising - meeting of June 2025
* Short Reports and Updates: [Scottish Information Commissioner](https://www.itspublicknowledge.info/), Deborah Clark [Office of UK ICO](https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/foi/), Michael Birrell [Scottish Government](https://www.gov.scot/) and [CFoIS](https://www.cfois.scot/).

**Q & A**

**5. Date of next meeting of SPIF**

**1.05pm**

**5. Meeting Closes**

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