CFoIS
Promoting the Right to Information in Scotland

Invite to the Scottish Public Information Forum
to discuss information rights

Monday 23rd March 2020 9.30am -1pm
Unite the Union, 22 York Place, Edinburgh EH1 3EP

About the Scottish Public Information Forum (SPIF)
SPIF is an opportunity for rights holders and duty bearers to meet and discuss 'access to information' in Scotland and consider how laws which force disclosure of information are operating.   Learning from each other helps improve understanding and practice. The meeting will be part of global celebrations to mark 'International Right to Know Day' and will hear from the Jersey Information Commissioner's Office on 'Access to Information and Democratic Accountability'. A full agenda appears below.

SPIF's remit is to 'enable the long-term effectiveness of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FoISA) and the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004' (EIR(S)s). Its role is incorporated in the Scottish Government's Six FoI principles published in 2007: **"Maintains effective relationships with the Scottish Information Commissioner and other key stakeholders** - We ensure the effective operation of the Act by fostering and maintaining good working relationships on Freedom of Information with stakeholders such as other public authorities and the Scottish Public Information Forum." The Scottish Government website has more information http://www.gov.scot/About/Information/FOI/6principles

After being overlooked for 7 years, in May 2017 SPIF was reconvened by CFoIS to:
*   Act as a sounding-board on the practical operation of FoISA and the EIR(S)s.
*   Share experiences of FOI and the EIR (S)s
*   Share good practice on FoI and EIR(S)s.
*   Hear updates from the Scottish Information Commissioner and the UK ICO

Who should attend?
If you work for the public sector, civil society or the private sector this meeting will be useful in your work, and members of the public are welcome to attend.

How to Register
Registration is free and at Eventbrite at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-scottish-public-information-forum-march-2020-tickets-93088358787

Registration is from 9.30-10am. A light lunch will be served at the end of the meeting to enable networking.

Agenda
1. Welcome and Introductions
   Mary Alexander, Deputy Regional Secretary, Unite the Union

2. Approval of Minutes of 26th September 2019 and matters arising

3. *Celebrating 15 years of Scotland's First Freedom of Information Act*
   - Report of a survey of UNISON members working in FOI, and about responses to FOI requests to a number of public bodies about how they deliver on FOI in Scotland. Fiona Montgomery, UNISON
   - 'Report Card on FoISA' an overview of the CFoIS project. Carole Ewart, CFoIS

4. Human rights and access to information rights – update from European Court of Human Rights and relevance to Scotland. Dr David Goldberg, CFoIS

5. Post Legislative Scrutiny of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FoISA) Update and next steps. More information at https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/111249.aspx

6. Section 5 consultation on extending designations under FoISA - update

7. Update from Scottish Information Commissioner

8. Update from the Scottish Government – Gerry Hendricks

9. Update from UK Information Commissioner's Office

10. Update from CFoIS

11. Sector Reports

12. AOCB

About CFoIS The Campaign for Freedom of Information in Scotland (CFoIS) was established in 1984 to secure a legal right of access to information so that people could find out about how they are governed and how their services are delivered. We have been involved in all the major developments of the legislation at a Scottish level. CFoIS is independent of government and relies on donations and income generated through project delivery and training. Info at https://www.cfoi.org.uk/scotland/ Contact at cfoiscot@gmail.com

About Unite the Union Thanks to Unite for hosting this meeting of SPIF Unite the union is the UK's largest trade union. For more information go to https://unitetheunion.org/what-we-do/unite-in-your-region/scotland/