



Scottish Information
Commissioner

Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner

Current Developments

28 February 2003 – Scottish Information Commissioner takes up post

23 April – SPCB approves OSIC staffing structure, terms and conditions.

13 June 2003 – Acquisition of lease for Kinburn Castle, St Andrews

23 June – first staff recruit begins employment

29 September – final staff recruit begins employment

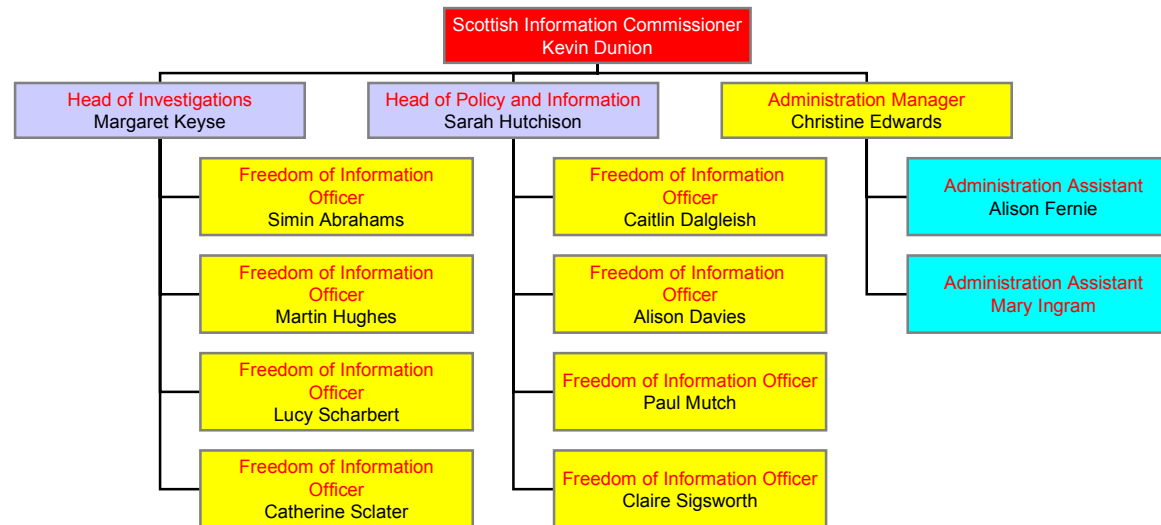
Budget - £2.1 million allocated for 3 years 2001/2 to 2003/4.

Spend :

- **£600000 - Acquisition of lease, setting up office, installation of IT, HR consultancy etc**
- **£600,000 – operational costs 2003-4**
- **£900,000 – operational costs 2004-5 including £100,000 to promote public awareness**



OSIC Staff complement



Location



Scottish Information
Commissioner

**Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews, Fife
KY16 9DS**

01334 464610

www.itspublicknowledge.info

What Public Knowledge ?



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Public expectation that information will be

- **Difficult to find**
 - **Expensive to obtain**
 - **Reluctantly released by authorities**
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- **Focus group research by McArthur Research for SIC – March 2003**

It's Public Confusion



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General public confusion with Data Protection Act

'the right to have information on anything held in your name'



Strapline - Key messages:

- **Public interest**
- **Public rather than personal information**
- **Promotion of general right to information**



- **Staff induction**
- **Meeting with public bodies and representative organisations**
- **Addressing conferences and seminars**
- **Responding to consultation drafts**
- **Preparing publication scheme approval process**

Publication Scheme Timetable



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Commissioner

Sector	Accepted	Deadline	Approved / Into Effect
Scottish Ministers Scottish Parliament Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Non-Ministerial Office Holders in the Scottish Administration Local Government Police	1 December 2003	28 February 2004	1 June 2004
(Parts 1,2,3 and 6 of schedule 1 to the Act)			

Publication Scheme Timetable (cont'd)



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Commissioner

Sector	Accepted	Deadline	Approved /Into Effect
National Health Service Educational Institutions	1 March 2004	31 May 2004	1 September 2004
(Parts 4 and 5 of schedule 1 to the Act)			
All public bodies listed in Part 7 of schedule 1 to the Act	1 June 2004	31 August 2004	30 November 2004



- **OSIC Guidance on publication schemes – issued 20 October 2003**
- **Non prescriptive- SIC will not draw up model schemes or issue list of classes to be employed in schemes.**
- **Direct link from OSIC website to publications schemes of public bodies proposed**
- **Schemes approved for 4 years**

Approval Process



Scottish Information
Commissioner

- **Submit scheme by due date**
- **Model publications schemes submit at least 6 weeks before due date for relevant authorities**
- **Schemes not acceptable will be refused, reasons provided and date for resubmission set**
- **Approval process available on line**
- **At each approval date a report on number of schemes approved; refused; pending will be compiled**



- **Countdown to Freedom of Information Conference – Murrayfield Conference Centre 19 November**
- **Annual Report to Parliament – March 2004**