

MEETING OF SCOTTISH FOI IMPLEMENTATION GROUP
10.30am Thursday 15th December 2005
at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh

AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies for absence
2. Minutes of previous meeting (27th September 2005) & matters arising
3. Scottish Executive update (FOI, EISRs)
4. OSIC update
5. Experience to date of “live running” with FOI(S)A
 - Feedback from members of group on position in their organisations/sectors
 - Specific issues raised by group members
6. FOI(S)A 2005 review
7. Discussion on remit of SFOIIG and subgroups (Paper on current remit is attached).
8. Any other business
9. Date of next meeting and notify agenda items

Tea and coffee will be served from 10.00am

Scottish Freedom of Information Implementation Group

Changes to remit, membership and operation of Group as noted in the Third Annual Report of the Group, April 2004

1. The Group agreed that its membership should be widened to include representatives from user groups.
2. There was also support for a proposal first raised by the Scottish Campaign for Freedom of Information in Scotland that the Group meetings would be held in public.
3. With regard to the remit of the Group it was agreed that in order to encourage ownership of FOI amongst public authorities the preparation of best practice guidance should be the responsibility for specific sectors. The SFOIIG could however provide a forum for the exchange of approaches and experiences and also for the cross fertilisation of ideas.
4. The Secretariat to the Group also separately obtained the views of stakeholders on the membership and operation of the Group and these too supported a widening of the membership of the Group.
5. Ministers subsequently agreed that the membership of the Group should be widened to include the interests of user groups; that meetings of the group be held in public and that the remit of the Group should be as follows :-
 - To provide a forum for the exchange of experiences and ideas on freedom of information issues in Scotland;
 - To oversee the fostering of a culture of openness across the Scottish public sector;
 - To review progress on the above after the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 has been in operation for one year; and
 - To report and advise the Deputy Minister for Finance and Public Services on the above.