

Dear [REDACTED]

FOI Reply 432

Thank you for your email sent to the Scotland Office on 25 May 2012.

You asked for the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

- 1. The years of birth of all civil servants in the department, together with their educational history: details of their secondary school and any higher education, if taken*
- 2. The years of birth of all special advisers in the department, together with their educational history: details of their secondary school and any higher education, if taken*

If any part of this request can be answered before any other part, please send that information first followed by subsequent information as it becomes available. If any exception is to be engaged, please provide full details of the public interest tests performed, including the arguments considered for and against disclosure and the weight applied to each factor.

The Scotland Office has completed its search for information.

Scotland Office does not employ staff directly. All staff join on a secondment type basis from other government bodies, principally the Scottish Government and the Ministry of Justice which remain the employers. It is these employers which would retain personal information in relation to the years of birth of staff in the office, possibly along with their educational history, including details of their secondary school and any higher education, if taken.

As for Special Advisers working in the Scotland Office, the information is held but it cannot be disclosed since it is exempt under the Freedom of Information Act, s 40(2). The Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not require a public interest test where the Act confers an absolute exemption. Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption.

I hope you find this helpful.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made in relation to your request you may ask for an internal review. A request for an internal review should be addressed to:

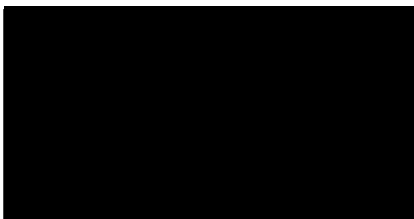
FOI Officer
1 Melville Crescent
EDINBURGH
EH3 7HW


If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The contact details are:


Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
CHESHIRE
SK9 5AF

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me.

Yours sincerely




Scotland Office


1 Melville Crescent
Edinburgh
EH3 7HW