

From: [name]  
Sent: 22 March 2016 10:16  
To: [email address]  
Subject: slight delay in progression of case - ref 201502194

Dear Mr McEnaney

In relation to the progression of your case regarding the national standardised tests, as you will be aware, the Scottish Parliamentary election takes place on Thursday 5 May. The current session of the Scottish Parliament is scheduled to end on 23 March 2016 and dissolution will begin immediately after that on 24 March 2016. During the period between the Scottish Parliament dissolution and the election on 5 May 2016, "purdah" will apply - this is the customary practice of a period of restraint by the Government and Ministers during the election campaign. During this period, restrictions are in place on the activities of civil servants. Further information on purdah in relation to the Scottish Parliament, can be found on the following webpage: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/help/92966.aspx>.

Although it does not affect the Scottish Information Commissioner directly, she has decided not to issue any decisions which might put forward a critical view of the Ministers. In discussion with the Head of Enforcement, it has been decided to delay the issue of the decision on your case until after 5 May 2016. As I am still investigating your case and I have yet to draft the decision, I do not consider this short delay will have a significant impact on the timescales for your case.

I apologise for the short delay this will cause, but I will continue with the investigation of your application and will draft the decision notice, so that the Commissioner can issue it soon after 5 May 2016.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards

[name]

Freedom of Information Officer

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