

# Scottish Information Commissioner Minutes of the Monthly Senior Management Team Meeting 02 June 2023 – by video conference

### **NOTE TO READER:**

The Scottish Information Commissioner publishes the minutes of Senior Management Team (SMT) meetings and the papers considered at the monthly and quarterly meetings, unless he considers, at the time of publication, that the minutes and/or papers are exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 or the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (FOI law). Where minutes or documents are not published, the minutes will make it clear why not.

Under FOI law, everyone has the right to request any information held by the Commissioner. This includes minutes or papers which have not been published. If you want to request copies of minutes or documents which haven't been published, make a request (in writing, by e-mail or in any other recordable form) to:

Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Rd, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS

Tel: 01334 464610 Fax: 01334 464611

enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

Present: Scottish Information Commissioner - Daren Fitzhenry (DF) (Chair)

Head of Corporate Services - Helen Gardner-Swift (HGS)

Head of Enforcement - Margaret Keyse (MK)

Head of Policy & Information – Claire Stephen (CMS)

Finance and Administration Manager – Liz Brown (LB) (Minutes)

Apologies: Finance and Administration Manager - Kim Berry (KB)

| Details   | Action<br>By | Target<br>Completion<br>Date | Publish<br>Yes /<br>No | Comments |
|---|--------------|------------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| 1. Minutes, action points update and matters outstar        | nding        |                              |                        |          |
| 1.1 Review of minutes – QSMTM Q4, 27/04/2023 and 24/05/2023 |              |                              | Vac                    |          |

| <ul> <li>1.1 Review of minutes – QSMTM Q4, 27/04/2023 and 24/05/2023</li> <li>The minutes were approved and will be published with the relevant papers</li> </ul> |  | Yes |  |
|---|--|-----|--|
| <ul><li>1.2 Action points update</li><li>No action points outstanding</li></ul>   |  |     |  |
| <ul><li>1.3 Matters outstanding</li><li>No matters outstanding</li></ul>  |  |     |  |

## 2. Operational Plan 2022-23 Monitoring Report

| • The SMT reviewed the Operational Plan 2022-23 |     |          | Yes | Report                  |
|---|-----|----------|-----|-------------------------|
| Monitoring Report and agreed it could be        |     |          |     | published in full       |
| published subject to one change on the Comms,   | CMS | 02/06/23 |     | – available <u>here</u> |
| Engage and Policy worksheet                     |     |          |     |                         |
| Engage and Policy worksheet                     | CMS | 02/06/23 |     | – availab               |

VC188192 Page 1



# 3. Operational Plan 2023-24 Monitoring Report

|      | •   |          |          |     |                              |
|------|---|----------|----------|-----|------------------------------|
| •    | Deferred to the next MSMTM  |          |          | N/A |                              |
| 4. ( | Operational Risk Register 2023-24   |          |          |     |                              |
| •    | Deferred to the next MSMTM  |          |          | N/A |                              |
| 5. ( | Governance Reporting – assurance report   |          | ı        |     |                              |
| •    | Deferred to the next MSMTM  |          |          | N/A |                              |
| 6. I | nterventions Report   |          |          |     |                              |
| •    | The Committee Report (CR) and the Interventions<br>Activity Report 2022-23 (IAR) were noted by the<br>SMT   |          |          | Yes | CR and IAR published in full |
| •    | The publication recommendations set out in the CR were agreed subject to:   |          |          |     |                              |
|      | a correction in paragraph 10 of the CR  | CMS      | 23/06/23 |     |                              |
|      | <ul> <li>clarification in the Section 65 paragraph of the IAR</li> </ul>  |          |          |     |                              |
| 7. ( | Communication and Engagement Framework  |          |          |     |                              |
| •    | The SMT:  |          |          | Yes | CR published in              |
|      | <ul> <li>noted the CR and the annual report of<br/>performance in 2022-2023 against the<br/>measures Communication and Engagement<br/>Framework 2020-2024</li> </ul>  |          |          |     | full                         |
|      | <ul> <li>agreed the publication recommendation in paragraph 66</li> </ul>   |          |          |     |                              |
| 8. I | Key documents - visual identity guidance docume   | nts revi | ew dates |     | 1                            |
| •    | The SMT considered the CR   |          |          | Yes | CR published in              |
| •    | CMS noted that there have been no substantive changes to the current version of the key document, only small amendments to reflect current practices and a couple of formatting issues have still to be resolved now that this document has been converted to a Word format |          |          |     | full                         |
| •    | The SMT approved the revised draft key document C2 Visual Identity Guidelines and the minor changes which included:   |          |          |     |                              |
|      | <ul> <li>the addition of a new font</li> </ul>  |          |          |     |                              |

VC188192 Page 2

23/06/23

CMS

addition of some accessibility guidance



| <ul> <li>revision of our approach to including<br/>photographs of people</li> </ul>   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <ul> <li>the SMT also approved one further change on<br/>page 17 of the revised draft key document to<br/>clarify procedures around decision notices</li> </ul> |  |  |
| The SMT agreed the following:   |  |  |
| the key document actions set out in the CR subject to the formatting issues being resolved  |  |  |
| the CR is published as set out in paragraph 14  |  |  |

# 9. British Sign Language - Action Plan - report and review

| The SMT noted:   | Yes | CR published i |
|--|-----|----------------|
| <ul> <li>the CR and the review and report for 2022-23</li> </ul>   | 165 | full           |
| <ul> <li>that a revised BSL plan is required by 23     October 2023 and the Operational Plan 2023-     24 should be updated to include this</li> </ul>   |     |                |
| The SMT agreed that no revisions are made to the BSL Plan at this time and that resources should be focussed on the three outstanding commitments as set out in the report.  |     |                |
| <ul> <li>As regards the outstanding commitment relating to<br/>providing staff with an opportunity to learn BSL,<br/>HGS suggested that managers should consider<br/>this when discussing forward work plans with their<br/>teams as part of the Performance and<br/>Development Framework arrangements</li> </ul> |     |                |
| The SMT agreed the publication recommendation in paragraph 20  |     |                |

# 10. Key document – FOISA Guidance; Vexatious or repeated requests; Frivolous or vexatious applications

| The SMT:  | Partial CR published in      |
|---|------------------------------|
| <ul> <li>approved the changes to the key document</li> <li>agreed the key document actions as set out in<br/>the CR</li> </ul>        | full Key document withheld – |
| agreed the publication recommendations set out paragraphs 17 and 18   | S27(1)                       |
| MK will review the EIRs guidance on 10(4)(b):     Manifestly unreasonable requests to ensure it accords with the revised key document |                              |

# 11. Recruitment - Deputy Head of Enforcement

VC188192 Page 3



| <ul> <li>Deferred – considered at a SMT meeting on 13</li> <li>June 2023 – see minute below</li> </ul> |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
|--|--|--|--|--|

# 12. AOB

| Training request email:   |     |            |     |  |
|---|-----|------------|-----|--|
| <ul> <li>The SMT discussed the request and CMS will<br/>follow this up with the organisation</li> </ul> | CMS | 23/06/2023 | N/A |  |

| SMT – meeting (MS Teams) – 13 June 2023  |          |          |    |  |
|--|----------|----------|----|--|
| CR - Recruitment - Additional Deputy Head of Enforcement (DHOE) (circulated by email)  The SMT   |          |          | No | CR not<br>published<br>- 30(b)(ii) of<br>FOISA |
| agreed the restructure of the Enforcement<br>team to include an additional Grade 5 DHOE<br>post  |          |          |    | POISA  |
| approved the recruitment of a DHOE, taking<br>the total number of DHOE posts to three  |          |          |    |  |
| agreed that an internal recruitment exercise<br>be carried out (as set out in the CR) and that<br>a recruitment action plan be prepared by the<br>Head of Corporate Services (HOCS)/the<br>Finance and Administration Manager (FAM)<br>with the aim of advertising the post internally<br>to seek expressions of interest as soon as is<br>practicable | HOCS/FAM | 07/07/23 |    |  |
| The SMT agreed that the CR is not published as set out in paragraph 36.  |          |          |    |  |
| CR - Restructure of the Policy and Information Team to include Deputy Head of Policy and Information (DHOPI) and Recruitment of DHOPI  The SMT   |          |          | No | CR not<br>published<br>– 30(b)(ii) of<br>FOISA |
| agreed the restructure of the Policy and Information (P and I) team to include a Grade 5 DHOPI post  |          |          |    |  |
| <ul> <li>approved the business case for the<br/>recruitment of a DHOPI</li> </ul>  |          |          |    |  |
| agreed that an internal recruitment exercise<br>be carried out (as set out in the CR) and that<br>a recruitment action plan be prepared by the<br>Head of Corporate Services (HOCS)/the<br>Finance and Administration Manager (FAM)  | HOCS/FAM | 07/07/23 |    |  |

VC188192 Page 4



| with the aim of advertising the post internally<br>to seek expressions of interest as soon as is<br>practicable |  |
|---|--|
| The SMT agreed that the CR is not published as set out in paragraph 28.   |  |

Signed off by:

D 40 (

**Date:** 12 July 2023

VC188192 Page 5