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Convenor
Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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22 November 2017

Dear *Convenor*

Following my letter to your Committee of 4 October, I am writing to you again to update you on the outcome of my meeting with Daren Fitzhenry, the new Scottish Information Commissioner.

You will be aware that the Commissioner has now written to me proposing that he broaden his current intervention to include the Scottish Government's wider FOI practice beyond the specific issue of compliance with timescales. I welcome this approach, which is in line with the Government's view I set out in the Parliamentary debate on 21 June, that the Commissioner, as the independent regulator for Freedom of Information in Scotland, is the appropriate person to undertake such a wider assessment

My reply to the Commissioner is attached for information.

Yours for Scotland
Joe FitzPatrick

JOE FITZPATRICK



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Daren Fitzhenry
Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
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22 November 2017

Dear *Daren*

Thank you for your letter of 15 November following our meeting on 25 October. I very much welcomed this initial opportunity for positive and productive discussion across the range of issues.

Thank you for your comments on the Scottish Government's response to the current intervention, in which you noted the considerable improvement that has been achieved over the last 5 months. I outlined in our discussion some of the measures we have taken and highlighted the commitment across Government to meet the agreed targets and to secure improvement more generally. I look forward to further discussion as you review outcomes at the end of the current monitoring period.

We also discussed the Scottish Parliament motion calling for an independent inquiry into how the Scottish Government deals with FOI requests. As you know I made clear to Parliament during the debate on 21 June the Government's view that it is for the Scottish Information Commissioner to undertake such investigation. As you note in your letter, the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee has also agreed that the Commissioner may be an appropriate independent person to undertake the inquiry.

I look forward to engaging with your office, both as the process of scoping the intervention develops and throughout the intervention itself.

JOE FITZPATRICK