

**From:** [Colin McAllister](#)  
**To:** [\[REDACTED\]](#)  
**Cc:** [\[REDACTED\]](#) [\[REDACTED\]](#); [A \[REDACTED\]](#) [\[REDACTED\]](#)  
**Subject:** Re: FOI Review - 202400400846  
**Date:** 14 March 2024 10:21:05

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[REDACTED]

OK. Agreed. C

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**From:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 9:18:59 AM  
**To:** Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: FOI Review - 202400400846

Hi Colin,

Just wondering if you had been able to consider this?

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

**[REDACTED]** | Propriety and Ethics Team  
1W.10, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Please note, I am currently working from home and can be contacted via MS Teams

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**From:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 10:09 AM  
**To:** Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: FOI Review - 202400400846

Hi Colin,

Apologies, I made an error in my email to you last night. The original response was issued without Ministerial clearance being required after seeking views from SPADs (email attached). As we aren't saying anything new with the review and merely upholding the original response, do you still think it needs Ministerial approval?

Happy to speak if easier and apologies for the confusion caused by yesterday's email.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

**[REDACTED]** Propriety and Ethics Team  
1W.10, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Please note, I am currently working from home and can be contacted via MS Teams

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**From:** Colin McAllister <[Colin.McAllister@gov.scot](mailto:Colin.McAllister@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2024 8:33 PM  
**To:** [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Re: FOI Review - 202400400846

[REDACTED]

Sorry but on this occasion, I feel Ministers do need to see it.

Colin

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**From:** [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2024 4:51:19 PM  
**To:** Colin McAllister <[Colin.McAllister@gov.scot](mailto:Colin.McAllister@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** FOI Review - 202400400846

Hi Colin,

Please see the attached draft response to an FOI review requested by [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] requested a review of FOI 202400395463 relating to the investigations carried out by James Hamilton.

As you will see, the review concludes that the original response should still stand. My view is that Ministers do not need to see this as it mirrors the advice provided in the original response, but grateful for your views before we issue.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

**[REDACTED]** Propriety and Ethics Team  
1W.10, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Please note, I am currently working from home and can be contacted via MS Teams  
[202400400846 - Draft Response \(A47655810\)](#)