

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 July 2017 14:05
To: Central Enquiry Unit
Subject: FOI REQUEST

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir or Madam,

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I request copies of the following:

- All correspondence and information including but not limited to documents, reports, calls logged, notes of meetings and emails between the Scottish Government and the Chinese government in relation to the pandas at Edinburgh Zoo. I am looking for the information for dates starting June 10th 2017 up until today's date (26/07/17) or more recent.

- All correspondence and information including but not limited to documents, reports, calls logged, notes of meetings and emails between the Scottish Government and the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland(RZSS) in relation to the pandas at Edinburgh Zoo. I am looking for this information for dates starting June 10th 2017 up until today's date (26/07/17) or more recent.

I understand that under the Act I am entitled to a response within 20 working days of your receipt of this request. Some parts of the request may be easier to answer than others. Should this be the case, I request that you release information as soon as possible.

If my request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all non-exempt material. I reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to charge excessive fees.

I would prefer to receive the information electronically.

If you require any clarification, I expect you to contact me under your section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance if you find any aspect of this FOI request problematic.

Please acknowledge receipt of this request, and I look forward to receiving the information in the near future.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

External Affairs Directorate
International Division



E: andrew.mckinlay@gov.scot



Our ref: FOI/17/01721
24 August 2017

Dear

Thank you for your email of 26 July 2017, requesting information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

Your request

(1) All correspondence and information including but not limited to documents, reports, calls logged, notes of meetings and emails between the Scottish Government and the Chinese government in relation to the pandas at Edinburgh Zoo. I am looking for the information for dates starting June 10th 2017 up until today's date (26/07/17) or more recent.

(2) All correspondence and information including but not limited to documents, reports, calls logged, notes of meetings and emails between the Scottish Government and the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) in relation to the pandas at Edinburgh Zoo. I am looking for this information for dates starting June 10th 2017 up until today's date (26/07/17) or more recent.

Response to your request

Request 1

While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance the Scottish Government does not have the information you have requested. We do not have the information because there are no records of correspondence or notes of meetings between the Scottish Government and the Chinese Government in relation to the pandas at Edinburgh Zoo between 10 June 2017 and the present date. This is a formal notice under section 17(1) of FOISA that the Scottish Government does not have the information you have requested.

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Request 2

Between 10 June 2017 and the present date, the pandas were mentioned in two written exchanges between the Scottish Government and the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS). Copies of these email exchanges between Scottish Government officials and the Director of the Giant Panda Programme at Edinburgh Zoo, Iain Valentine are attached at Annex A.

An exemption under section 29(1)(a) of FOISA (formulation or development of government policy) applies to some of the information requested because it relates to the development of the Scottish Government's policy on engagement with China.

This exemption is subject to the "public interest test." Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest is in disclosing information as part of open, transparent and accountable government, and to inform public debate. However, there is a greater public interest in high quality policy and decision-making, and in the properly considered implementation and development of policies and decisions. This means that Ministers and officials need to be able to consider all available options and to debate those rigorously, to fully understand their possible implications.

An exemption under section 38(1)(b) of FOISA (personal information) applies to some of the information requested because it is personal data of a third party, ie names and contact details of individuals, and disclosing it would contravene the data protection principles in Schedule 1 to the Data Protection Act 1998. This exemption is not subject to the 'public interest test', so we are not required to consider if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. I have also redacted parts of the correspondence due to the subject matter being of no relevance to your enquiry.

Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your FOI request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response by writing to Ken Thomson, Director General Strategy and Operations, Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG or by emailing DGEconomy@gov.scot. Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response and should be made within 40 working days from the date you received this letter. We will complete the review and tell you the result, within 20 working days from the date when we receive your review request.

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. More detailed information on your appeal rights is available on the Commissioner's website at: <http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Unhappywiththeresponse/AppealingtoCommissioner.aspx>.

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Yours sincerely,



Andrew McKinlay
International Relations

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ANNEX A

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 July 2017 10:07
To: [SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL]
Cc: [SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL] **Subject:** RE: Pandas

Hello [SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL]
[REDACTED]
Yes for sure I will keep you posted, no problem.
I sent [SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL] an email, just yesterday with this update

“TT doing real well. As things are at the moment, she seems on track but I have shifted possible birth date to around 25th August. Will be able to be a bit more precise in a weeks time.
So, she is about 30 days out now and pregnancy proper has now begun in what we think is a 37 day pregnancy. “

See or hear from you soon.
My best
Iain

From: [SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL]
Sent: 25 July 2017 10:03
To: Iain Valentine [REDACTED]
Cc: [SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL]
Subject: Pandas

Iain

[REDACTED]
I was reminded by [SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL] that this is the season when we might be expecting some baby pandas and I know [SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL] has been in touch with you about the progress there.

[REDACTED]

We also haven't caught up for a while, so hopefully we have a chance to so do so soon.

Best wishes
[SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 July 2017 11:38
To: [SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL]
Subject: RE: Update

Hello [SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL]
[REDACTED]
TT doing real well. As things are at the moment, she seems on track but I have shifted possible birth date to around 25th August. Will be able to be a bit more precise in a weeks time.
So, she is about 30 days out now and pregnancy proper has now begun in what we think is a 37 day pregnancy.
Best

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Iain

From: [SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL]
Sent: 24 July 2017 02:42
To: Iain Valentine [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Update

Hi Iain,

[REDACTED]
Any further news on TT?

[SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL]

From: Iain Valentine [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 July 2017 19:28
To: [SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL]
Cc: [SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL]
Subject: RE: Update

Hello [SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL]
[REDACTED]

All seems fine with TT at the moment....waiting on results from last set of samples so will see what they turn up.

Hope all good with you

Best

Iain

[REDACTED]

From: [SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL]
Sent: 04 July 2017 07:28
To: Iain Valentine
Cc: [SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL]
Subject: Re: Update

Hi Iain,

Thanks for the update - exciting times (we hope).

[REDACTED]

Best wishes,
[SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL]

Sent from my iPhone

On 29 Jun 2017, at 19:24, Iain Valentine [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello Martin

[REDACTED]

Tian Tian is doing just fine and latest sample results are showing that things are on track at the moment. It's a bit early to give a potential birth date if there is to be a birth a good window of opportunity to look to is from

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very end of july to mid august. I will be able to home in on a potenatial date a bit better in about ten or so days time when another set of tests kick in.

[REDACTED]

Will keep you posted on TT as things move forward.

Best

Iain

From: [SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL]

Sent: 29 June 2017 10:39

To: Iain Valentine [REDACTED]

Cc: [SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL]

Subject: Update

Hi Iain,

I just wanted to check in on how things were progressing back at the Zoo?

[REDACTED]

Best wishes,

[SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL]

From: Iain Valentine [REDACTED]

Sent: 13 June 2017 16:30

To: [SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL]

Cc: [SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL]

Subject: RE: Invitation names

Hello [SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL]

[REDACTED]

So we now wait on the next few weeks to pass to see what will happen with our female panda here. We are shortly to move into the "interesting" phase of her cycle when pregnancy should begin. I will keep you posted as to how it's all looking.

My best

Iain

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