



The Centre for Freedom of Information is a joint venture between the School of Law, University of Dundee and the Scottish Information Commissioner.

**Autumn 2011 PROGRAMME
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION:
CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN FOI**

WEDNESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2011

Lecture Theatre 2, Dalhousie Building, Smalls Wynd, University of Dundee DDI 4HN

- 13:00** **Lunch – served in the Upper Gallery**
- 14:00** Welcome and general introduction from Chair
Professor Alan Page, Co-Director, Centre for Freedom of Information in Scotland
- 14:05** Current developments in freedom of information
Fiona Killen, Head of Parliamentary and Public Law Unit, Anderson Strathern
- 14:30** The Public Records (Scotland) Act 2011 – implications for FOI
Hugh Hagan, Senior Public Records Officer, The National Records of Scotland
- 15:00** Scottish Civil Society and FOI: license, leverage and lessons
Dr Will Dinan, Lecturer, University of Strathclyde
- 15:30** Panel discussion
- 15:55** Round up and Close
Chair

About the Co-Directors:

Kevin Dunion, Scottish Information Commissioner

Kevin Dunion is Scotland's first Information Commissioner. Since the Freedom of Information Act came into effect in Scotland in 2005, he has published over 1,000 formal decisions. The Scottish experience is proving of interest to other jurisdictions and in particular he has been directly involved in projects in Jamaica (with the Carter Center) and Malawi (with the British Council and Scottish Government). In 2008, Kevin was elected Rector of the University of St Andrews for 3 years. Prior to becoming Commissioner, Kevin Dunion was head of Friends of the Earth. He is the author of a number of books and articles, and is currently writing a forthcoming publication on enforcing freedom of information rights.

Professor Alan Page, Dean, School of Law, University of Dundee

Alan Page was appointed Professor of Public Law in Dundee School of Law in 1985. He was appointed Dean in 2006, having been Head of the Department of Law, Dean of the Faculty of Law and Head of the Department of Public Law. He has acted as a specialist adviser: to the Scottish Parliament's Subordinate Legislation Committee (2004-06), the House of Lords and House of Commons Joint Committee on Financial Services and Markets (1998-99), and the House of Commons Select Committee on Scottish Affairs (1993-97); and to the EU, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the UN. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Society of Advanced Legal Studies and an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the Constitution Unit, University College London.

About the speakers:

Fiona Killen, Head of Parliamentary and Public Law Unit, Anderson Strathern.

Fiona Killen is a Partner at Anderson Strathern. She specialises in freedom of information and data protection law, governance and regulatory matters, human rights, statutory interpretation and legislative drafting. Fiona is the Scottish Information Commissioner's external legal advisor.

Hugh Hagan, Senior Public Records Officer, The National Records of Scotland

Hugh was a member of the Public Records Bill Team and is leading on the implementation on the Government side. He is currently working to develop a stakeholder forum to consider the main elements of the record management plan and the guidance the Keeper of the Records must, by law, produce.

Dr Will Dinan, Lecturer, School of Applied Social Sciences, University of Strathclyde.

Will has undertaken extensive research on lobbying and political communications in Scotland, UK and Europe, and sits on the steering committee of ALTER EU. He is co-author of *Open Scotland? Journalists, Spin Doctors & Lobbyists*. Will and Kate will discuss the findings from recent quantitative and qualitative research exploring the uptake of FOI by Scottish civil society.

About the Centre for Freedom of Information

The Centre for Freedom of Information was established in February 2009 as a joint venture between Dundee Law School, University of Dundee and the Scottish Information Commissioner. Our aim is to provide conceptual space to reflect on and discuss current FOI issues and practice. We will build the Centre to become a central point for the development of research into FOI issues, and provide opportunities to transfer knowledge and gain further learning, with access to expertise from specialists in constitutional and civil law, FOI practitioners and the Commissioner's office.