



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

**AUTUMN 2009 PROGRAMME
POLICING, THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2009

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

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| 13:00 | Lunch - served in the upper Gallery |
| 14:00 | General Introduction

Professor Janet McLean |
| 14:10 | Introduction and Overview

Chief Inspector Donald Thomson, Tayside Police |
| 14:30 | Keynote address:
FOI and Policing: The Scottish Experience

Mr David Goldberg |
| 14:50 | Competing claims of the Public Interest

Mr Alastair Graham
Business Lead, Protection of Vulnerable Group
Legislation Implementation, Grampian Police |
| 15:10 | Panel discussion
Professor Fiona Raitt, Kirsty McGowan, Chief Inspector
Donald Thomson, Alastair Graham and David Goldberg |
| 15:45 | Closing remarks

Mr Kevin Dunion, Scottish Information Commissioner

Refreshments |

About this seminar:

Mr David Goldberg

David Goldberg was a co-convenor of the Campaign for Freedom of Information in Scotland from 1984-2008. He writes, lectures and provides training on the subjects of freedom of information and expression.

Chief Inspector Donald Thomson

Chief Inspector Donald Thomson is the Scottish Police Freedom of Information Coordinator, a role he has fulfilled for the last 18 months. Donald is a Tayside Police officer with 30 years service and is seconded to ACPOS (Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland) in his current role. He has been involved with FOI since 2003 when he represented Tayside Police on the ACPOS working group preparing the service in Scotland for the introduction of the Act. Donald is currently responsible for managing the police service FOI Central Referral Process in relation to Scottish forces, sourcing and providing appropriate advice to forces in receipt of requests, engaging with applicants and stakeholders and the provision of FOI training. He was previously responsible for oversight of the data protection, information security, records management, freedom of information and disclosure functions in Tayside Police. When not involved in "freeing" information Donald enjoys a game of golf and looks forward to reducing his handicap following his imminent retirement from the police service.

Mr Alastair Graham

Alastair joined the police service in 1970. After a varied career, he ended up as the Force Information Security Officer and was tasked with advising the ACPOS portfolio holder on the Introduction and Implementation of FOISA legislation for the Scottish Police Service in the two years prior to its commencement. He retired in 2004 to take on the role of Head of Information disclosure for the force, a new unit created to answer the challenges of FOI, Data Protection, Records Management, and release of Information under Part V of the Police Act 1997. He is also secretary of the ACPOS Information Assurance and Release Committee which deals with recommending policy on Information Release and related matters. Currently he is seconded to the Scottish Government as the Police Business lead for the implementation of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 which will come into force in the Autumn of 2010.

Professor Fiona Raitt, Professor of Evidence and Social Justice, Law School, University of Dundee

Fiona Raitt was appointed Professor of Evidence and Social Justice in 2005. She was previously a senior lecturer in the Law School having been Director of the Diploma in Legal Practice from 1993-2000. She has thirteen years' experience as a practising solicitor in the public and private sectors. She has been a Visiting Scholar at Cornell University (2002) and the University of British Columbia (2004). She is a member of the Criminal Courts Rules Council and was an examiner for the Law Society of Scotland from 2003-2008. She is a member of the Access to Justice Committee of the Law Society of Scotland, and two Scottish Government groups concerned with Vulnerable Witnesses: the Vulnerable Witnesses Practitioners Forum, and the sub-group on witness communication, part of the Witness Issues Group. She is a member of the Steering Group for the Scottish Civil Justice Network, a Consortium involving 5 universities and a public policy partner, funded by the Scottish Funding Council.

Kirsty McGowan, Senior Procurator Fiscal Depute, Criminal Justice and Disclosure Team, Policy Division, Crown Office, Edinburgh

Kirsty joined Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary in 1980 and transferred to Tayside Police in 1984. She served in Dundee and Criminal Investigation Department covering the whole of Tayside and was promoted to Sergeant in 1991 and remained in force until retired in 1997. Kirsty studied at University of Dundee 1998 – 2002 gaining LLB (Hons) and then the Diploma in legal practice. She joined the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service in 2002 working in Crown Office then Kirkcaldy, and Dundee. She was promoted to Senior Procurator Fiscal Depute in April 2008 before returning to Crown Office Policy Division in September 2008. Her portfolio includes Disclosure, Freedom of Information, Data Protection and Records Management. She represents COPFS on ACPOS's Short Term Working Groups on Criminal Justice and Major Crime.

Spring Seminars 2010 to be advertised shortly

All events will be held at the University of Dundee. Further information will be available shortly on <http://www.centrefoi.org.uk/>

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, in particular modelling decision making and examining bureaucratic culture.

The seminar programmes and forthcoming research and study programmes are designed to 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.

Kevin Dunion, Scottish Information Commissioner and **Professor Alan Page, Dean of Dundee Law School**, are Co-Directors of the Centre for Freedom of Information.



The Centre for Freedom of Information



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How to register to attend this seminar

POLICING, THE PUBLIC INTEREST and FOI 2-4pm (1pm lunch)

THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2009

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

Name _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

(for invoice if applicable) _____

Tel _____

Email _____

Purchase Order Number (if known) _____

All cheques made payable to University of Dundee

- I will attend the seminar and lunch and enclose a cheque for £25.00
- I will attend the seminar only and enclose a cheque for £ 17.00
- I will attend the seminar and lunch and enclose a Purchase Order No
- I will attend the seminar only and enclose a Purchase Order No.
- I will attend the seminar and lunch and enclose a cheque for £10.00*

**special reduced rate for unwaged, students and voluntary organisations*

Completed forms to be returned to:

Ms D Hendry, School of Law, Dundee University, Dundee, DDI 4HN or via email to: centrefoi@dundee.ac.uk by Friday 20 November (please note that early booking is advised).