

## Executive Advisory Board Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act Exemption Form

The author must complete this page before submitting the paper to the Business Support Office.

### Publication

To demonstrate openness and transparency, all governance group papers will now be published on the website of Social Security Scotland. All governance group papers should be written in line with the Writing for Publication Guidance.

Papers which contain sensitive information which should not be published must set out the reasons why. The author must identify the relevant exemption which should apply. The exemption should be stated in the section below, with the reasoning for this decision. Please speak to the Data Protection and Information Governance team before submitting your paper if you are unsure which exemption may apply.

1. I am aware that this paper may be published in the public domain and I am content for the information to be published. ☐

2. I believe information in this paper should be withheld from publication and that an exemption applies. ☒

2.1. Please state the exemption and explain your reasoning:

I have applied the following redactions throughout the paper:

- 38(1)b – to redact the names of staff not within the Senior Civil Service
- 30(b)(i) - Some information has been redacted from this report as it would be exempt under section 30(b)(i) (free and frank provision of advice). In order to be able to conduct a thorough audit, accurately reflecting the position at the material time, individuals need to be allowed to provide candid comments safe in the knowledge that these views will not be further shared. Disclosure of this information would, or would be likely, to have a “chilling effect” on the robustness of views expressed by officials contributing to the audit and, in turn, inhibit the manner in which such audits are currently undertaken. It would not be in the public interest to reduce the effectiveness of the audit process in identifying areas for improvement
- 30(c) - Disclosure would otherwise prejudice substantially, or be likely to prejudice substantially, the effective conduct of public affairs. This has been assessed against the public interest test.

This review formed part of planned audit coverage agreed by the Accountable Officer and noted by the Audit and Assurance Committee on 11th February 2020.

This review was focussed on providing assurance on the operation of links between Social Security Scotland and the Scottish Government Social Security Directorate (Programme).

Paper authors should write a short paragraph here to summarise the content of the paper.