

(Pt of 2)

Additional Information.

I have contributed to the consultation even though I live in England because it is important that someone on the mainland should do something about correcting what I regard as an injustice.

1) In 2004, my local District Council sold off the Housing stock after a consultation with the public. Options were given and the tenants agreed to form The Parkside Housing Trust. The FOI Act Bill had already been passed through in 2000 and became law in 2005.

Unfortunately no one told the wider public, including the tenants, that their rights would be totally fulfilled under the new FOI Act. In fact even after the Act came into being not even senior Council Housing Trust and Local Councillors appeared to know anything as this was evidently portrayed in 2008 when I was at a Tenants Panel Complaints meeting.

During the consultation to transfer Housing stock to the new Housing Trust, I obtained because I didn't really have the faith to realise where the whole thing was going. I ask how many people would have voted to stay with the District Council if they had known about losing their rights to FOI in 2005?

2) I would never agree to be charging for FOI requests.

3) The Institute of Housing doesn't seem to object to the regulation changing when I made enquiries 3-4 years ago.

4) My Housing Association has now expanded to Synergy Housing to the Peter Lynn, and it seems less accountable than it was before.

Any expansion should happen whilst no protection is there under the FOI Act.

5) Transparency and integrity can be compromised without the FOI Act because Housing Association can hide behind their role and responsibilities and the true facts do not always come out when something goes wrong. The spirit of openness does not work.

(P 2 of 2)

competition assessment - Commercial organisations should be used as a check as long as the safeguards are applied fairly

b) The Foi Act would attempt to achieve better
audit on the companies involved. Good Complaints Management
is based on peoples' rights to the facts, policies and procedures.
This will be the same with the spirit of the Act!

c) The full use of the model publication Scheme would keep
costs down and improve the culture of the organisation. This has
shown to be the case in local government and other public authorities

Finally I would like to pay appreciation to those
people who have managed this consultation and the amount of information
that has been provided.

Just over a week ago, I made enquiries to the English
Government about any equivalent consultation happening within the
RSA's coverage of the Foi Act. I can't even get hold of the
Team or department.

This is now a good time, Heroku, to take advantage
of the extension of the Foi Act Scotland 2002 and I thank
the Scottish Government for allowing me a voice regional in England

Yours sincerely,