



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

John Swinney MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Perthshire North

Dr Pauline Stephen
Chief Executive
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Clerwood House
96 Clermiston Road
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Our Ref: JS10518WS

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Re: Use of SEEMiS and Freedom of Information Concerns

I am writing [REDACTED] regarding concerns about the use of the SEEMiS system and the handling of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests within the education sector.

[REDACTED] advises that teachers and probationers in Perth and Kinross are reportedly being encouraged or permitted to retrospectively amend entries in the SEEMiS system. This includes backdating entries or altering records to reflect activity that did not take place on the dates indicated. [REDACTED] believes this undermines the integrity of the system and may have broader implications for data accuracy and professional accountability.

Whilst I appreciate that the day-to-day management of this system does not fall within your organisation's remit, I would be grateful if you could confirm whether GTC Scotland provides guidance to schools or the wider profession in relation to the ethical use of SEEMiS or similar data recording systems. Additionally, is there any existing oversight or audit process in place to ensure SEEMiS entries reflect accurate and timely reporting?

More broadly, [REDACTED] has raised concerns about the approach taken by GTC Scotland in relation to Freedom of Information. In particular, they feel that there is a tendency to use broad exemptions and delays when responding to FOI requests, including those submitted by education professionals. Accordingly, I would be grateful if you could advise whether GTC Scotland is reviewing its approach to FOI handling and whether any updated guidance or processes are under consideration?

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,