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| [REDACTED] | Area G-GOAGVictoria QuayEdinburgh EH6 6QQDate 27 May 2015 |

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your email of 05 May 2015 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).  You asked:

“Could you please provide me with the information that shows the length of time (in working days) it took to the department to employ every new member of staff from outside the Civil Service in the most recent financial year (2014/15)? This length of time should cover the number of working days from the initial external advertisement of the post until the first working day of the new employee. If you do not hold information on the number of working days for every external hire, then the next best alternative would be an estimate of the average number of working days.

Could you please also tell me the number of people who joined the department in every one of the five financial years since 2010/11 without undergoing a competency-based interview?”

I am writing to confirm that we do not hold the information you have requested. The Office of the Advocate General does not directly employ staff. All our staff are on secondment from other Government departments, primarily the Scottish Government and the Ministry of Justice and therefore any requests relating to time taken to employ staff and staff employed without undergoing a competency based interview should be made to them. Their email addresses for FOI requests are:

ceu@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

<https://www.justice.gov.uk/information-access-rights/foi-requests/make-an-foi-request-online>

You may, if dissatisfied with the treatment of your request, ask the Office of the Advocate General to conduct an internal review of its decision.  The internal review will be conducted by someone other than the person who took the initial decision.  Requests for internal review should be addressed to the Information Officer, Office the Advocate General, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.

If following the internal review you remain dissatisfied with the treatment of your request by OAG then you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner, whose address is Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.  Details of the complaints procedure can be found here:

<http://www.ico.gov.uk/complaints/freedom_of_information.aspx>

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]