



Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

2002 asp 13

PART 2

EXEMPT INFORMATION

38 Personal information

(1) Information is exempt information if it constitutes—

- (a) personal data of which the applicant is the data subject;
- [^{F1}(b) personal data and the first, second or third condition is satisfied (see subsections (2A) to (3A));]
- (c) personal census information; or
- (d) a deceased person's health record.

[^{F2}(2A) The first condition is that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act—

- (a) would contravene any of the data protection principles, or
- (b) would do so if the exemptions in section 24(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018 (manual unstructured data held by public authorities) were disregarded.

(2B) The second condition is that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act would contravene Article 21 of the [^{F3}UK GDPR] (general processing: right to object to processing).]

[^{F4}(3A) The third condition is that—

- (a) on a request under Article 15(1) of the [^{F5}UK GDPR] (general processing: right of access by the data subject) for access to personal data, the information would be withheld in reliance on provision made by or under section 15, 16 or 26 of, or Schedule 2, 3 or 4 to, the Data Protection Act 2018, or
- (b) on a request under section 45(1)(b) of that Act (law enforcement processing: right of access by the data subject), the information would be withheld in reliance on subsection (4) of that section.]

^{F6}(4)

Changes to legislation: Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, Section 38 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 06 March 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

(5) In this section—

[^{F7}“the data protection principles” means the principles set out in—

(a) Article 5(1) of the [^{F8}UK GDPR], and

(b) section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018;

“data subject” has the same meaning as in the Data Protection Act 2018 (see section 3 of that Act);]

^{F9}
...

“health record” has the meaning assigned to that term by section 1(1) of the Access to Health Records Act 1990 (c.23); and

“personal census information” means any census information—

(a) as defined in section 8(7) of the Census Act 1920 (c.41); or

(b) acquired or derived by virtue of sections 1 to 9 of the Census (Great Britain) Act 1910 (c.27),

which relates to an identifiable person or household.

[^{F10}“personal data” and “processing” have the same meaning as in Parts 5 to 7 of the Data Protection Act 2018 (see section 3(2), (4) and (14) of that Act);]

[^{F10}“the UK GDPR” has the same meaning as in Parts 5 to 7 of the Data Protection Act 2018 (see section 3(10) and (14) of that Act).]

[^{F11}(5A) In determining for the purposes of this section whether the lawfulness principle in Article 5(1)(a) of the [^{F12}UK GDPR] would be contravened by the disclosure of information, Article 6(1) of the [^{F12}UK GDPR] (lawfulness) is to be read as if the second sub-paragraph (disapplying the legitimate interests gateway in relation to public authorities) were omitted.]

(6) In section 8(7) of the Census Act 1920 (penalties), in the definition of “personal census information”, at the end there is added “ but does not include information which, by virtue of section 58(2)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (asp 13) (falling away of exemptions with time), is not exempt information within the meaning of that Act ”.

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 38(1)(b) substituted (25.5.2018) by [Data Protection Act 2018 \(c. 12\)](#), s. 212(1), **Sch. 19 para. 90(2)** (with ss. 117, 209, 210, [Sch. 20 para. 36](#)); S.I. 2018/625, reg. 2(1)(g)
- F2** S. 38(2A)(2B) substituted for s. 38(2) (25.5.2018) by [Data Protection Act 2018 \(c. 12\)](#), s. 212(1), **Sch. 19 para. 90(3)** (with ss. 117, 209, 210, [Sch. 20 para. 36](#)); S.I. 2018/625, reg. 2(1)(g)
- F3** Words in s. 38(2B) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Data Protection, Privacy and Electronic Communications \(Amendments etc\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/419\)](#), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 22(2)** (with [Sch. 3 para. 112](#)); 2020 c. 1, [Sch. 5 para. 1\(1\)](#)
- F4** S. 38(3A) substituted for s. 38(3) (25.5.2018) by [Data Protection Act 2018 \(c. 12\)](#), s. 212(1), **Sch. 19 para. 90(4)** (with ss. 117, 209, 210, [Sch. 20 para. 36](#)); S.I. 2018/625, reg. 2(1)(g)
- F5** Words in s. 38(3A)(a) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Data Protection, Privacy and Electronic Communications \(Amendments etc\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/419\)](#), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 22(2)** (with [Sch. 3 para. 112](#)); 2020 c. 1, [Sch. 5 para. 1\(1\)](#)
- F6** S. 38(4) omitted (25.5.2018) by virtue of [Data Protection Act 2018 \(c. 12\)](#), s. 212(1), **Sch. 19 para. 90(5)** (with ss. 117, 209, 210, [Sch. 20 para. 36](#)); S.I. 2018/625, reg. 2(1)(g)
- F7** Words in s. 38(5) substituted (25.5.2018) by [Data Protection Act 2018 \(c. 12\)](#), s. 212(1), **Sch. 19 para. 90(6)** (with ss. 117, 209, 210, [Sch. 20 para. 36](#)); S.I. 2018/625, reg. 2(1)(g)

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- F8** Words in s. 38(5) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Data Protection, Privacy and Electronic Communications \(Amendments etc\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/419\)](#), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 22(3)(a)** (with [Sch. 3 para. 112](#)); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)
- F9** Words in s. 38(5) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Data Protection, Privacy and Electronic Communications \(Amendments etc\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/419\)](#), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 22(3)(b)** (with [Sch. 3 para. 112](#)); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)
- F10** Words in s. 38(5) inserted (31.12.2020) by [The Data Protection, Privacy and Electronic Communications \(Amendments etc\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/419\)](#), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 22(3)(c)** (with [Sch. 3 para. 112](#)); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)
- F11** S. 38(5A) inserted (25.5.2018) by [Data Protection Act 2018 \(c. 12\)](#), s. 212(1), **Sch. 19 para. 90(7)** (with ss. 117, 209, 210, [Sch. 20 para. 36](#)); S.I. 2018/625, reg. 2(1)(g)
- F12** Words in s. 38(5A) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Data Protection, Privacy and Electronic Communications \(Amendments etc\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/419\)](#), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 22(4)** (with [Sch. 3 para. 112](#)); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- sch. 1 para. 74A inserted by [2023 asp 6 sch. 2 para. 2\(2\)](#)