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Dear Danielle

Proposed Amendments to Exemptions in Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972

The Commissioning Joint Committee, which I chair, has looked closely at the proposed amendments, particularly as to their effect on the commissioning of work and services.

This is of course a field in which the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will almost certainly have a major impact. Obviously its scope is much wider than that of Schedule 12a of the 1972 Act, and nobody can be certain how the courts will address cases to which both Acts apply. It is easy to see what difficulty might arise in interpreting them simultaneously.

We therefore agree entirely that the terms of the 1972 Act and the 2000 Act need to be aligned as closely together as possible, and we believe that the Review Group has succeeded in doing so. We strongly support the proposed Order.

We have no objection to you passing on our response to anybody who might be interested.

Sincerely



Will Werry, chair

NOTE

The CJC comprises representatives of all the local authorities' associations in the UK, and of more than 40 officers' organisations. These cover the disciplines involved in all aspects of commissioning local authority services and works. Our website is at www.cipfa.org.uk/pt/cjc.cfm