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09:00	**Registration, Exhibition and Refreshments**
09:45	**Chair's opening remarks** **Henry McLeish**, former First Minister of Scotland
Session 1 Post-legislative scrutiny - Future-proofing the Act This session will focus on the Parliament's post-legislative scrutiny of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, which will be coming to a close in December. Have the policy objectives of the Act been realised? What are the issues with the operation of FOI, and what role does FOI play in modern society and open government?	
09:55	**Daren Fitzhenry**, [Scottish Information Commissioner](#) [1]
10:05	**Carole Ewart,** Convener of the [Campaign For Freedom of Information](#) [2]
10:20	**Graeme Dey MSP**, Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans, The Scottish Government
10:30	**Q&A**
Keynote Session	
10:40	**Will Moy,** Chief Executive of [Full Fact](#) [3]
11:00	**Refreshments**

Session 2 Masterclass Breakout Session 1
Following feedback from last year, we've added an extra masterclass. Delegates will have the choice of which three 30-minute workshops to attend (two before lunch and one after). In advance of the event, you will register for your preferred sessions to ensure these align with the key issues you want answers to. Two of the masterclasses are "solutions rooms", which are more practical, participative opportunities for smaller groups to reflect on key challenges and work together to resolve them.
The masterclasses are:
- A – [FOI: Getting it right](#) [4]
- B – [Common problems of an FOI officer](#) [5]
- C – [Solutions room: Responding promptly](#) [5]
- D – [Solutions room: The power of proactive publication](#) [5]

11:15	**Masterclass of choice num. 1**
11:45	**Masterclass of choice num. 2**
12:15	**Lunch & Networking**
13:15	**Masterclass of choice num. 3** Find a list of available masterclasses [here.](#) [4]

Session 3 Transparency & trust
All speakers will reflect on this question from various perspectives. In an age of big data, fake news, and diminishing trust in government, how do we ensure people still feel involved and represented in today's democracy? How do we line up with other examples from abroad?

13:45	**Do FOI and open government data work as anti-corruption policies?** **Maria Zuffova**, Ph.D. Candidate at the School of Government and Public Policy, [University of Strathclyde](#) [6] and Researcher, Open Government
14:05	**Transparency in the age of fake news** **Alastair Brian,** Lead fact-checker, [The Ferret Fact Service](#) [7] *The Ferret is an award-winning investigative journalism platform for Scotland and beyond. Alastair is the lead fact-checker for Ferret Fact Service and runs our fact-checking workshops across the country. His presentation will look at how to achieve transparency in the age of fake news.*
14:25	**Q&A**
14:40	**Refreshments and Networking**

Session 4 - The journey of a request
By breaking down the different stages of an information request, this session will give some insight into the different parts of the system and different characters that play such an important role in the FOI story. In the session will hear about why people make requests and what they do with that information. It will then move onto the authority side and explore some of the issues faced by authorities in handling requests

15:00	**The Requester** **Patricia Anderson,** Campaign Spokesperson & FOI User**,** [GiveThemTime](#) [8] Freedom of Information legislation has been absolutely pivotal for the Give Them Time Campaign - it has enabled us to verify parents' anecdotal accounts of the disparate processes used by local authorities to assess so-called "discretionary" deferral requests and the wide-ranging average approval rates of these across the country. Without this data, we would have been unable to challenge local and national policies as forcefully.

15:10	**The Journalist** **Rob Ewards, environmental journalist at The Ferret** *In 2018/19 the media made up 7% of requesters appealing to the Commissioner, compared to 11% in the previous year. Rob is a regular user of FOI to conduct investigations and write stories for the media on controversial issues. He also contributed to a [journalists' letter](#) [9] in 2017 calling for action to be taken on the Scottish Government's FOI performance. He will talk about the value of FOI for journalists and writers like him.*
15:20	**The FOI Officer** **Paul Gibbons,** consultant and trainer in information rights and information management at [FOIMAN](#) [10] *Paul is a consultant and trainer in information rights and information management. He has been working in the field of information management for over 20 years and for much of this period, as FOI Officer in a number of public authorities. He has recently published 'the FOI Officers Handbook' and will use this session to share his experience of being an FOI officer.*
15:30	**The Authority** **Alex Parsons,** Research Associate at [My Society](#) [11] *Alex recently published papers about understanding FOI in local government, and central government, using data from WhatDoTheyKnow. The purpose was to establish how many FOI requests are actually received in local and central government in England. He will share his [findings](#) [12] about how FOI is administered in local government in England, and what learnings there may be from this from authorities in Scotland.*
15:40	**Q&A**
16:00	**Chair's Closing Remarks** **Henry McLeish**, former First Minister of Scotland
16:10	**Close of conference**

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Links
[1] http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/home/AboutSIC/CommissionerBiography.aspx
[2] https://www.cfoi.org.uk/
[3] https://fullfact.org/about/our-team/
[4] http://foi.holyrood.com/masterclasses-interactive-sessions-1
[5] https://foi.holyrood.com/masterclasses-interactive-sessions-1
[6] https://pureportal.strath.ac.uk/en/persons/m%C3%A1ria-%C5%BEuffov%C3%A1
[7] https://theferret.scot/ferret-fact-service/
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