

From: [Foi Enquiries](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: EIR-17-0846 - Kingsford Stadium
Date: 12 July 2017 15:29:31
Attachments: [Further Information - Right to Review & Appeal.pdf](#)
[EIR-17-0846 - OCE Scans Redacted.pdf](#)

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your information request of 15 June 2017. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has completed the necessary search for the information requested.

Please provide copies of all emails between councillors, officers and/or representatives of Aberdeen Football Club from 17 January 2017 to date relating to Pittodrie Stadium or the proposed stadium at Kingsford near Westhill.

Only those communications between AFC and their representatives relating to the stadium application which include communications involving any of the following: the Office of the Chief Executive, the Head of Economic Development, the City Centre Director and elected members (since May 8th 2017 for elected members).

Please refer to the attached correspondence.

The letter from George K Yule, Executive Vice Chairman, Aberdeen Football Club, dated 24 May 2017 was sent to all councillors. Some councillors did not keep hold of the letter or respond.

No correspondence held by the Office of the Chief Executive, the Head of Economic Development or the City Centre Director for the period specified.

We hope this helps with your request.

Yours sincerely,

Grant Webster
Information Compliance Officer

INFORMATION ABOUT THE HANDLING OF YOUR REQUEST

As the information which you requested is environmental information, as defined under Regulation 2(1) of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (the EIRs), ACC considered that it was exempt from release through FOISA, and must therefore give you notice that we are refusing your request under Section 39(2) of FOISA (Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002). However, you have a separate right to access the information which you have requested under Regulation 5 of the EIRs, under which ACC has handled your request. Please refer to the attached PDF for more information about your rights under the EIRs.

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*03000 numbers are free to call if you have 'free minutes' included in your mobile call plan.
Calls from BT landlines will be charged at the local call rate of 10.24p per minute (the same as 01224s).

www.aberdeencity.gov.uk

Your Ref.
Our Ref. SM/ld
Contact Sandra Macdonald
Email SaMacdonald@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Direct Dial (01224) 346637
Direct Fax

11 July 2017

George K Yule
Aberdeen Football Club
Pittodrie Stadium
Aberdeen
AB24 5QH

Aberdeen City Council
Town House
Broad Street
Aberdeen AB10 1FY

Tel 01224 346637
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Dear Mr Yule

I would like to thank you and Aberdeen Football Club for your good wishes in my role as local Councillor.

I would be delighted to take up the offer to understand the future plans of Aberdeen Football Club and of the future for the gap they will leave behind in the Pittodrie neighbourhood.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Sandra Macdonald
Elected Member for George Street / Harbour

29th June 2017

Councillor Sandra Macdonald
Aberdeen City Council
Town House
Broad Street
Aberdeen
AB10 1FY



Aberdeen Football Club plc
PITODRIE STADIUM, ABERDEEN AB24 5QH

Dear Cllr. Macdonald

Subject: Proposed new AFC Stadium Development at Kingsford.

Thank you for your response to our earlier letter highlighting the importance and benefits of bringing a new community sports hub, training facilities and a stadium to the city and region - we are in the process of organising briefings for all new Councillors and MPs and will be in touch shortly with proposed dates. However, in the meantime, we continue to work with all stakeholders to ensure we fully address any genuine and perceived areas of concern in the run-up to the pre-determination hearing.

With regards to Pittodrie Stadium, the outline planning application for residential development remains in place and, should we secure planning consent for the development at Kingsford, our current site will be marketed to developers wishing to build residential homes (including an allocation of affordable housing) in this location.

We also recognize that several local bars around Pittodrie Stadium have benefited from our match day attendances for decades and the Club is in dialogue with various AFC supporters' groups as part of our transportation strategy to consider more closely the feasibility of operating shuttle buses from these establishments to Kingsford.

In the interim, pending the meetings referred to above we'd be pleased to address any other specific queries you may have.

Yours sincerely



George K Yule (M. Univ. Abdn)
Vice Chairman
Aberdeen Football Club plc

Your Ref.
Our Ref. GS/ld
Contact Gill Samarai
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Direct Dial (01224) 346613
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11 July 2017

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Dear Mr Yule

Firstly can I thank you for your letter dated 24 May 2017. It is a great honour to be re-elected to represent the Ward of Dyce/Bucksburn and Danestone for a further 5 years.

As you may be aware as a Councillor I am prohibited for making comments on planning applications either in support or against. I would however confirm that I have noted the contents of your letter.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Gill Samarai
Elected Member for Dyce /Bucksburn / Danestone



Councillor John Wheeler
Aberdeen City Council
Town House
Broad Street
Aberdeen
AB10 1FY

Aberdeen Football Club plc
PITODRIE STADIUM, ABERDEEN AB24 5QH

Wednesday 24 May 2017

Dear Cllr. Wheeler

Congratulations on being elected to serve on Aberdeen City Council for the Kingswells, Sheddocksley and Summerhill ward.

As you are aware, Aberdeen Football Club has submitted a planning application for a world-class community sports hub, football training academy and new stadium at Kingsford and we would like to take this opportunity to highlight the key issues for the Club and the socio-economic benefits it will bring to Aberdeen.

The planning application to Aberdeen City Council for the 25.5 hectare site at Kingsford includes community and sports facilities; a football academy comprising outdoor pitches, pavilion and ancillary buildings; and a 20,000-seat capacity stadium along with associated access roads, parking, landscaping and engineering works.

Subject to planning approval, the proposals will see more than £50 million invested to create a new home for the Dons; provide a base for the significant expansion of the award-winning work of Aberdeen FC Community Trust and create a focal point for footballing excellence in the North of Scotland.

Furthermore, at a time when participation in sport is being encouraged by Government to promote health and wellbeing, we believe the creation of best-in-class outdoor sporting facilities will complement the fantastic indoor and aquatic facilities provided by Aberdeen Sports Village and ensure that the city's profile as a hub for sporting excellence is dramatically raised.

This private-sector investment and the new jobs it will create will send out a strong signal of confidence in the region which has been severely affected by the oil and gas downturn, and when combined with other sporting facilities in the city, this will make the North-east a sporting powerhouse.

The restrictions of the Club's no longer fit-for-purpose Pittodrie Stadium, including the inability to develop co-located and dedicated training facilities, are an increasing barrier to the Club's sustainable future.

The Club ensures the city and the wider region is profiled nationally and internationally and Aberdeen FC has further ambitious plans to enhance our reputation as a visionary organization, competing successfully in domestic and European competition, with first class facilities for our supporters, staff and players at all ages.

We cannot deliver this, nor be a positive role model for young people, within the current infrastructure at an aged Pittodrie Stadium. Equally, without suitable training and community facilities – a prerequisite for every professional football club – we will be unable to compete at the highest levels of Scottish and European football.

The Community Trust provides support and opportunity for people of all ages, and often to those in greatest need of a helping hand. Working in partnership with charities and public sector organisations, and our supporters, we deliver award-winning inclusion, health and wellbeing programmes. The Trust cannot increase the scope of this work without dedicated facilities and the development would enable it to extend its positive impact in the region and create new ways of engaging with multiple stakeholder groups.

We previously held a number of briefings for local and national politicians and, would be willing to organize another round of fact-finding sessions for Aberdeen City Councillors, particularly newly elected, and will be in contact in due course with a view to arranging there.

In the meantime, please accept our best wishes in your civic role and do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions or would like more detail on our plans

Yours sincerely



George K Yule *M.Univ. (Aberdeen)*
Executive Vice Chairman
Aberdeen Football Club