

From: [Foi Enquiries](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI-16-1411 - Memorial Plaques
Date: 23 November 2016 09:10:09
Attachments: [FOI-16-1411 Emma Valentine Application.pdf](#)
[Further Information - Right to Review & Appeal.pdf](#)

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your information request of 31 October 2016. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has completed the necessary search for the information requested.

Could I please be supplied with the application for a plaque to Emma Valentine with all details of individuals redacted? I am interested purely in their application, and why they thought she was worthy of a plaque.

Please find attached a copy of the original application with applicant's details removed.

ACC is unable to provide you with information relating to the individual responsible for nominating Ms Valentine for a memorial plaque as it is excepted from disclosure. In order to comply with its obligations under the terms of Section 16 of the FOISA, ACC hereby gives notice that we are refusing your request under the terms of Section 38(1)(b) in conjunction with 38(2)(a)(i) – Personal Information - of the FOISA.

In making this decision ACC considered the following points:

ACC is of the opinion that Section 38(1)(b) applies to the information specified above as the information in question is personal information relating to living individuals, and the applicant is not the data subject.

ACC is of the opinion that Section 38(2)(a)(i) applies, as ACC considers that disclosure of this information would be a breach of the first Data Protection Principle (that personal information must be processed fairly and lawfully).

We hope this helps with your request.

Yours sincerely,

Nicky Leiper
Information Compliance Officer

INFORMATION ABOUT THE HANDLING OF YOUR REQUEST

ACC handled your request for information in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Please refer to the attached PDF for more information about your rights under FOISA.

Information Compliance Team

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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

| Nominee Details | |
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| Full Name: | Miss Emma Valentine |
| Date of Birth: | 5 th October 1858 |
| Date of Death : <i>(all nominees must be deceased)</i> | 30 th May 2015 |
| Occupation: | Librarian |
| <u>Brief Biography of the nominee:</u> | <p>Emma Valentine was born in Aberdeen on 5 October 1858. Although we have no information about her early years we know her father James was a well know public figure serving latterly as Registrar who encouraged her love of books through his own works on music and statistics.</p> <p>Emma Valentine was appointed to the position of Senior Assistant in the Reference Department commencing 1 September 1890 on a salary of £50 per anum. At the time the public library was located in the former Mechanics Institute in Market Street before moving to the new Central Library on Rosemount Viaduct in 1892 when she became “Assistant in Charge” of the newly opened Reference Library. Known as “Miss Valentine” her career in the library service spanned 25 years before her unexpected death on 30 May 1915. She went into hospital in October 1914 to undergo an operation but sadly never returned to the Library. She is buried in Allenvale Cemetery.</p> <p>The sad news of her death came as a shock to many readers in Aberdeen and a number of tributes appeared in the Aberdeen Daily Journal. Here are just a few extracts which clearly demonstrate she was very highly thought of and respected and customer care was foremost in her approach.</p> <p>“Her helpfulness and courtesy was of first importance”</p> <p>“To all who frequented the reference department during the long winter evenings and the “wet” Saturdays when the place was crowded Miss Valentine was a familiar figure with a wide and extensive knowledge of the Reference stock. It will not be quite the same without her kindly presence”.</p> <p>“In her capacity of assistant librarian she was well-known and highly esteemed by the public - for she was</p> |

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| | <p>devoted to her duties and ever ready to exert herself to the utmost in the service of the library”</p> <p>Miss Valentine shared City Librarian G.M. Fraser’s enthusiasm for local history and contributed much to the compilation of the Local Catalogue. It took 2 years to compile and consisted of an alphabetical listing of books, pamphlets and maps including an appendix of over 200 paintings, engravings and photographs. It was published in 1914 and sold for sixpence. Her lasting legacy is that current Local Studies staff still have occasion to refer to the original printed catalogue to check an item.</p> <p>It was suggested that a portrait of her would grace the walls of the Reference Department where she so conscientiously served and diligently laboured for the benefit of the citizens of Aberdeen. Unfortunately that never happened and although we have a photograph of the Library staff in 1890 we cannot positively identify Emma Valentine.</p> <p>Miss Valentine was one of many women who held senior positions in the Library service throughout the years and in many ways whilst they did not achieve the standing and recognition accorded to the City Librarian their contribution is deservedly acknowledged. From 1884 until 2007 the head of the library service in Aberdeen was male dominated until the appointment of Fiona Clark as Library & Information Services Manager.</p> |
| <p>Reasons for nomination <i>The following requirements should be met:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i) That the nominated person is worthy of commemoration</i> <i>ii) That they are of national or international standing or of such outstanding local importance as to deserve a plaque.</i> <i>iii) They should be regarded either within their profession as eminent or be recognisable to the well-informed passer by.</i> | <p>Miss Valentine shared City Librarian G.M. Fraser’s enthusiasm for local history and contributed much to the compilation of the Local Catalogue. It took 2 years to compile and consisted of an alphabetical listing of books, pamphlets and maps including an appendix of over 200 paintings, engravings and photographs. It was published in 1914 and sold for sixpence. Her lasting legacy is that current Local Studies staff still have occasion to refer to the original printed catalogue to check an item.</p> <p>A few extracts which clearly demonstrate she was very highly thought of and respected and customer care was foremost in her approach.</p> |

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| <p>Please provide any additional reference materials regarding this nominee:</p> | <p>██████████ Service Development Manager Aberdeen Central Library</p> |
| <p>Proposed location of the plaque:</p> | <p>Aberdeen Central Library</p> |
| <p>Reasons for this location:</p> | <p>Place of Work</p> |