



Scottish Information
Commissioner

Our Ref: 202500558

Your Ref: 19354

Ms Ann Davie
Chief Executive
East Dunbartonshire Council
12 Strathkelvin Place
Kirkintilloch
Glasgow
G66 1TJ

12 November 2025

Dear Ms Davie,

Compliance with Decision Notice
Decision No: 206/2025

I refer to previous correspondence regarding the above matter. Evidence has now been provided that East Dunbartonshire Council has belatedly complied with the steps required under the Scottish Information Commissioner's Decision 206/2025.

The Commissioner considers the Council's failure to comply with the Decision Notice by the statutory deadline totally unacceptable. This breach flies in the face of the Council's stated commitment to transparency and legal compliance and erodes trust not just in your Authority, but in the Freedom of Information regime as a whole.

The explanations offered for this delay do not excuse the non-compliance. Furthermore, once realised, compliance should have been achieved promptly in days, not in weeks. The Commissioner expects all public authorities to treat his Decision Notices with the utmost seriousness. It was fortunate for East Dunbartonshire Council—and for you personally—that at the time of compliance the Commissioner had not yet formally lodged papers with the Court of Session. The Commissioner reminds the Council that he is entitled to refer cases to the Court immediately after the compliance period expires.

In particular I note your comments about the burden of this request. If the burden of a request is sufficient to render the request manifestly unreasonable, your staff should be able to provide specific evidence of this. In the event that you do consider my decisions to err in law, your appropriate recourse is to raise an appeal, not unilaterally fail to comply promptly.

While the Commissioner notes the steps you claim to be taking to prevent recurrence, he expects full and prompt compliance with all future Decision Notices. Late compliance will not be tolerated.

I would also note that a review of my records indicates there are some wider issues with your Authority's engagement with my office. In particular I note that, in other recent cases, my staff have needed to issue several information notices to obtain the information we need to carry out investigations and, as I outlined in my decision notice, there were significant weaknesses in the submissions we received in this case. I consider that it may be appropriate for your review of your processes considers how these wider issues can be addressed.

This case is now closed. However, we have noted this failure as non-compliance in our case management system for the purposes of our future interventions activity.

A copy of this letter will be published on my website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Hamilton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Hamilton

Scottish Information Commissioner