

Information Assurance and Governance
Office of the Principal

12 June 2025

Dear Mr/Ms MacDonald,

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002
Our Ref: 175-25

I refer to your request for the following information received on 21 May 2025 under the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 ("the FOISA") in relation to regulation surrounding the use of honorary titles:

- Does the University condone the day-to-day use of honorary titles such as "Doctor" or "Professor" outside of University business?

The University does not hold recorded information relevant to your enquiry.

Convention dictates that Honorary titles are used only in the context of the awarding institutions, and if used elsewhere should be clearly identified as being honorary. The University would also not give an MD to anyone who did not have a medical degree.

Information not held

Section 17 of the FOISA requires that a Scottish public authority confirms in writing where information requested of it is not held and notice is therefore given to this effect.

Your right to seek a review of how your information request was managed

If you are not satisfied with the University's response and/or our reasoning set-out above, you have the right to request a review of our decision. The timelines in which this right is available are set out in section 20(5)(a) and (b) FOISA. In broad terms the right to seek a review must be exercised within 40 working days of receiving this response.

Any request for review at this time should be sent by email to foi@st-andrews.ac.uk stating:

Information Assurance and Governance
01334 462776
foi@st-andrews.ac.uk

- a) your name and address;
- b) details of your original request; and
- c) the reasons why you are dissatisfied with our response.

If you remain dissatisfied with how your request for information has been dealt with following Review, you also have the right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner (SIC) for a decision. In the event of an appeal to the SIC, the Commissioner will generally only be able to investigate the matters raised in the request for review.

Details on how to make an appeal online to the SIC can be found on their website:

<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Unhappywiththeresponse/AppealingtoCommissioner.aspx> .

This concludes the University's response.

Yours sincerely



Information Assurance and Governance Officer