

260310 (217) FOI Data Destruction

From: Freedom of Information <foi@sose.scot>
Sent: 10 March 2026 11:56
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Freedom of Information <foi@sose.scot>
Subject: FOI Request - Software Based Data Destruction Assurance

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 12 February 2026. We are responding to you under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 [FOISA].

FOI REQUEST (12 February 2026)

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following recorded information held by your department regarding assurance processes for software based data erasure of end of life IT equipment. For clarity, this request relates solely to software based data destruction. Please exclude physical destruction methods such as shredding, crushing, degaussing or disintegration.

1. Please confirm whether departmental policy, contractual terms or internal procedures require an explicit outcome based warranty or guarantee confirming that personal data has been rendered irretrievable through software based erasure, whether carried out internally or by an external provider.
2. Where software based data destruction is performed internally, what recorded evidential assurance does the department rely upon to conclude that the final data state is irretrievable?
3. Where software based data destruction is performed by a third party provider, does the department hold recorded information demonstrating that any warranty or assurance provided explicitly extends to the software erasure method used and its claimed effectiveness? If so, please confirm the recorded nature of that verification.
4. Where no explicit outcome based warranty is required or provided, what recorded form of evidential assurance does the department rely upon to conclude that software based erasure has rendered personal data irretrievable?

I am not requesting technical configuration detail, security sensitive information or supplier specific vulnerabilities. I am seeking confirmation of the assurance model relied upon for software based data destruction.

RESPONSE

1. The service provided to South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) by an external partner includes an explicit, outcome-based guarantee. All software-based erasure is designed to render personal data irretrievable, ensuring that devices are safe for reuse in compliance with data protection regulations.
2. SOSE do not perform any internal data destruction.
3. SOSE's external partner produce an itemised Certificate of Destruction, which explicitly acknowledges that all functional media has been erased (to standards such as NIST 800-88) so that information is completely unrecoverable. The effectiveness of this method is further verified by adherence to international standards, including ADISA ICT Asset Recovery Standard 8.0 and ISO 27001.

4. Not applicable, an explicit guarantee and itemised certification is provided for all assets.

You have the right to request a review of the way in which this request has been processed. Should you wish to exercise this right, you will need to contact us within 40 working days of receipt of this email.

If you remain dissatisfied on completion of the review, you have the right to appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner and thereafter to the Court of Session on a point of law only:

Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9DS
Telephone: 01334 464610
www.foi.scot
or for online appeals:
www.foi.scot/appeal

Regards,
SOSE Corporate Governance Team
FOI@sose.scot



www.southofscotlandenterprise.com