**“Uncovering the Environment: The Use of Public Access to Environmental Information” User Workshop – 24 October 2019**

**Schedule**

12:30pm – 1:00pm Lunch

Lunch with refreshments will be provided at the start of the workshop. Vegetarian and Gluten-free options will be provided.

1:00pm – 2:00pm Session 1: Phrasing Requests for Environmental Information

In this session we will be discussing how users of the right phrase their requests for environmental information, in particular focussing on the language used in these requests and the opinions of Scottish public authorities. We will also discuss the role of proactively disclosed environmental information and the ability to ask for assistance from Scottish public authorities.

2:00pm – 3:00pm Session 2: Considering Identity and Motive in Disclosing Environmental Information

In responding to requests for environmental information Scottish public authorities are not allowed to take into account the identity and motive of the requester. While this does create an even-playing field for users, it does also result in public authorities being unable to prioritise “time-sensitive” requests or distinguish the differing needs of separate users. In this session we will be discussing the user- and motive-blind approach, and consider whether changes could and should be made.

3:00pm – 3:20pm Tea Break

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided as refreshments.

3:20pm – 4:20pm Session 3: Outcomes of Accessing Environmental Information

Many users of the right seek access to environmental information in order to engage with public authorities which are making decisions regarding the environment in which they live. In particular, users often utilise disclosed environmental information to oppose a proposed decision made by the public authority in question. In this session we will discuss how environmental information that has been disclosed has been used, and whether any outcomes of these uses matched the desired outcome.