



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Information Management and Governance
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

foi.officer@parliament.scot

28 February 2022

Dear Requester

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: 2022-671251

We acknowledge your request for the following information:

-The total number of beehives located on the Scottish Parliament campus and the estimated number of bees living within these hives, in total.

-The number of jars of honey produced by honeybees on the Scottish Parliament campus between the years 2016-22 and the total numbers sold in the Parliament shop and to Members of the Scottish Parliament, and staff.

-The estimated cost of maintaining bees on the Scottish Parliament campus

-The number of employees that maintain bees on the Scottish Parliament campus

Your request was received on 1 February 2022 and has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOI(S)A).

Responding to each part of your request in turn the position is as follows:

-The total number of beehives located on the Scottish Parliament campus and the estimated number of bees living within these hives, in total.

The Scottish Parliament has 12 beehives onsite. A honeybee hive usually has between 20,000 and 80,000 bees in it.

-The number of jars of honey produced by honeybees on the Scottish Parliament campus between the years 2016-22 and the total numbers

sold in the Parliament shop and to Members of the Scottish Parliament, and staff.

The Parliament's beehives produce 80lbs to 120lbs of honey a year, but typically only a small proportion of this is sold in our shop.

The Parliament shop received 50 jars of honey in the period of this request, all of which were sold. We do not hold information as to who the jars of honey were sold to broken down by MSPs and parliament staff as we have no business need to collect or collate this information.

The main reason we have bees at Parliament is however for the contribution they make to pollination and biodiversity in and around Holyrood and Arthur's Seat.

You might be interested to know that beeswax from our hives is used in the Great Seal of Scotland to seal Acts of the Scottish Parliament.

In line with the technical requirements of FOI(S)A we have provided a notice advising that information about who the jars of honey were sold to is not held by the Scottish Parliament.

-The estimated cost of maintaining bees on the Scottish Parliament campus

The Parliament's beehives are managed for us by a beekeeping company called Hood's Honey ([Home - Hoods Honey](#)). For the past financial year, the cost of maintaining the beehives was £1,749.96 excluding VAT.

-The number of employees that maintain bees on the Scottish Parliament campus

As the beehives are maintained by Hood's Honey no Parliament staff are involved in maintenance of the bees on the Scottish Parliament campus.

In keeping with our FOI procedures, this information may also be posted on the Parliament's disclosure log (usually within 24 hours). For further details on the Parliament's Disclosure Log and the information released under FOI, visit:

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/abouttheparliament/17700.aspx>

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<https://www.parliament.scot/about/copyright>

We would welcome feedback or comment on how we handled your request.

Please feel free to contact the Head of Information Governance at

foi.officer@parliament.scot

Please find below Annex A, which explains how we handle FOI requests and reviews.

We are currently working remotely and so would ask you to contact us by email at foi.officer@parliament.scot

Yours sincerely,

Robin Davidson
Head of Information Governance

REQUESTS MADE UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

How we handle FOI requests

Information on how we handle FOI requests is available on the Parliament's website at:

[Privacy notice: Information rights: Freedom of Information request handling | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

Alternatively, please contact the Public Information & Resources Team to request a copy.

<https://www.parliament.scot/contact-us>

Review

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which we have dealt with your request for information, you can ask us to review our decision and actions. You must do this in writing (or other permanent form) within 40 working days of the date of this letter, stating the reasons for your dissatisfaction, and we will respond within 20 working days of receipt. A request for a review should be made to the Head of Information Governance:

Post: Head of Information Governance
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP
Telephone: 0131 348 5281

We welcome calls using the Text Relay service or in British Sign Language through [contactSCOTLAND-BSL](#).

E-mail: foi.officer@parliament.scot

Application to the Scottish Information Commissioner

If, on the outcome of any review, you are still dissatisfied, or if we are unable to resolve any other complaint, then you can contact the Scottish Information Commissioner:

Post: The Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9DS

Email: www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal

Telephone: 01334 464610

Fax: 01334 464611

Website: www.itspublicknowledge.info

A decision by the Scottish Information Commissioner may be appealed on a point of law to the Court of Session.

Copyright in relation to information provided

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Feedback or comment

We would welcome feedback or comment on how we handled your request. Please contact the Head of Information Governance.

Data Protection

If you wish to find out more about how we use your personal data then you can access our Privacy Notice at the following link:

[Privacy notice: Information rights: Freedom of Information request handling | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

Complaints

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which we dealt with your enquiry, then you may wish to raise the matter with Public Information and Resources.

How to contact us

Post: The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Telephone: 0131 348 5000
0800 092 7500 (Public Enquiries)
0131 348 5395 (Gàidhlig)

We also welcome calls using the Text Relay service or in British Sign Language through [contactSCOTLAND-BSL](#).

E-mail: info@parliament.scot