



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Information Management and Governance
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

foi.officer@parliament.scot

24 May 2022

Dear Requester

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: 2022-674560

We acknowledge your request for the following information:

I'm trying to get a better idea of the internet policies inside the parliament.

Can you release any policy document or guidance?

Are there different policies or protocols for members' access, their staff access and parliament staff access? If so could details of the difference be released?

Is there a list of sites or types of sites that are blocked by the parliament? Can you release this if so?

Can you share details of all attempts to access sites that have been blocked? Can you share the URL? Can you share who tried to access and how they tried to access? Were they a member's staff and did they try to use the WiFi?

Your request was received on 28 April 2022 and has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOI(S)A).

In response to the first part of your request about internet policies, there is no specific policy aimed at Members and their staff. [The IT Acceptable Use Policy](#), applies to staff working for the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB), staff on secondment and contractors who are authorised to use the SPCB's IT systems. We also have a [Social Media Policy](#) for all SPCB staff, staff on secondment and contractors who are authorised to use the SPCB's internet, e-mail and other business communications systems. Both these policies are published in the [Employee Handbook](#).

Additionally, MSPs have a duty to act in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament which sets out standards of conduct for Members in relation to their Parliamentary duties as an MSP. For information, the Code of Conduct can be accessed here: [Code of Conduct | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

As this information is publicly available on the Scottish Parliament website we have attached a notice under section 25 of FOI(S)A in respect of information which is otherwise accessible.

We have interpreted the second part of your request as relating to websites which are blocked by the Scottish Parliament having regard to the nature and content of the website as opposed to websites which are automatically blocked externally on behalf of the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) drawing information from commercial threat intelligence feeds and the NCSC's own intelligence sources. If we have misunderstood the request, then please let us know.

The Scottish Parliament does not hold information on 'sites that are blocked by the parliament' as we do not actively prohibit access to websites (other than in the context of cyber security outlined above), therefore the information requested is not held by us and cannot be provided to you.

In line with the technical requirements of FOI(S)A we have provided a notice advising that the information you have requested is not held by the Scottish Parliament.

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>

The supply of information under FOI does not constitute permission for its use in a way that would infringe copyright

<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

The supply of information under FOI does not constitute permission for its use in a way that would infringe copyright. Where relevant you should obtain permission from the copyright holder before any such use.

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