



Information Management and Governance
Team
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

foi.officer@parliament.scot

13 June 2022

Dear Requester,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: 2022-675460

We acknowledge your request for information seeking:

Please confirm the date when the public galleries in the Parliament were re-opened to the public following restrictions put in place due to the Covid pandemic.

Please confirm whether any social distancing measures were in place when the public galleries re-opened and whether any social distancing measures remain in place today.

If social distancing measures remain in place at the present time, please indicate the basis on which such measures remain in place (e.g. public health advice, advocacy by trade unions or other reasons) and what objective criteria have been put in place which set out the conditions under which the measures would be lifted.

Your request was received on 20 May 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:

Please confirm the date when the public galleries in the Parliament were re-opened to the public following restrictions put in place due to the Covid pandemic.

The Chamber public gallery re-opened to members of the public from 21 March 2022. The public galleries in the Committee rooms re-opened from 19 April 2022.

Please confirm whether any social distancing measures were in place when the public galleries re-opened and whether any social distancing measures remain in place today.

When the public galleries re-opened no social distancing measures were in place. However, staff recognised some visitors may wish to request additional space under the Distance Aware badge scheme. We therefore ensured requests like this could be accommodated if asked for. Additionally, we have always ensured any visitor with additional support requirements could request additional space if it was needed.

If social distancing measures remain in place at the present time, please indicate the basis on which such measures remain in place (e.g. public health advice, advocacy by trade unions or other reasons) and what objective criteria have been put in place which set out the conditions under which the measures would be lifted.

No social distancing measures remain in place at the present time. The decision to remove social distancing measures was made following Scottish Government advice under its new strategic framework, with the COVID threat level reducing to “low” on 21st March 2022.

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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 by e-mail at foi.officer@parliament.scot

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

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

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.

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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

