



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Information Management and Governance
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

foi.officer@parliament.scot

16 May 2023

Dear Requester,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: 2023-687127

We acknowledge your request for the following information:

I request disclosure of the overall costs involved with respect to ‘Tartan Week’ presently attended by various MPs and MSPs in New York. Also, once it becomes available upon their return, I request total cost figures for each individual irrespective of political party affiliations, ie. how much each individual claimed in expenses, air fares, accommodation, kilt hire, and other sundries associated with their trip.

Your request was received on 17 April 2023 and has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOI(S)A).

The delegation representing the Scottish Parliament at Tartan Week in New York in 2023 consisted of the following people:

- Presiding Officer, Alison Johnstone MSP
- Finlay Carson MSP, Convener of the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee
- Collette Stevenson MSP, a member of the Criminal Justice Committee and the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee.

The delegation was accompanied by two officials employed by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB).

The SPCB covered the costs of the delegation’s economy flights to and from New York as well as food, accommodation and transportation during their stay (The Parliament did not pay for any kilt or clothing hire, or for any “sundries”). Total costs for each Member of the Scottish Parliament are as follows:

	Costs
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Alison Johnstone MSP	£1,958.78
Finlay Carson MSP	£2,062.01
Collette Stevenson MSP	£2,004.59

The total cost of the entire delegation attending Tartan Week in New York was £10,196.68. This includes the MSPs listed above as well as the expenses for accompanying officials.

We do not hold information on costs for Members of Parliament (MPs) who attended Tartan Week in New York. MPs are elected to the House of Commons in the UK Parliament, which is a separate organisation from the Scottish Parliament. The following webpage provides guidance on how to request information from the UK Parliament: [Freedom of Information - UK Parliament](#)

As some of the information you requested is not held by the Scottish Parliament, we have provided a notice advising of this, in line with the technical requirements of FOI(S)A.

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,

Linda Forrest
Information Compliance Officer

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