



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Information Management and Governance
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

foi.officer@parliament.scot

28 November 2023

Dear Requester,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: 2023-693782

We acknowledge your request for the following information:

- 1. All correspondence received and sent by the Scottish Parliament, including internally, about Colin Beattie being on the Public Audit and Scrutiny Committee, between March 1 2023 and the date of this FOI.*
- 2. All correspondence received and sent by the Scottish Parliament, including internally, about SNP MSPs correcting the record about £6m of swimming pool funding being provided to the Scottish Government between January 1 2023 and the date of this FOI.*
- 3. All correspondence received and sent by the Scottish Parliament, including internally, about Douglas Ross being called a liar in the chamber on October 5, 2023, between that date and the date of this FOI?*
- 4. All minutes/notes held by yourselves from meetings of the parliament's cross-party Palestine group that have taken place since September 1 2023.*

Your request was received on 1 November 2023 and has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOI(S)A).

We have responded to each part of your request, in turn, below:-

- 1. All correspondence received and sent by the Scottish Parliament, including internally, about Colin Beattie being on the Public Audit and Scrutiny Committee, between March 1 2023 and the date of this FOI.*

We have interpreted your request to be in relation to the session 6 Public Audit Committee, as this is the audit committee which has met in the timeframe of your request.

Please find attached document *2023-693782Correspondence-Part1* which discloses some of the correspondence which is within the scope of this request.

We hold other correspondence which falls within the scope of this part of the request, however, we consider this to be exempt from disclosure under the following sections of FOI(S)A:

- 30(b)(i) Free and frank provision of advice;
- 30(b)(ii) Free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation;
- 30(c) Effective conduct of public affairs; and
- 38(1)(b) Third party personal data.

Details of the information which has been withheld and the reasons for this are provided in the attached refusal notice, in line with the technical requirements of FOI(S)A.

2. *All correspondence received and sent by the Scottish Parliament, including internally, about SNP MSPs correcting the record about £6m of swimming pool funding being provided to the Scottish Government between January 1 2023 and the date of this FOI.*

Members' corrections that are accepted under the terms of the [Guidance on Corrections](#) are published on the [Corrections and changes to the Official Report](#) webpage of the Scottish Parliament website.

In the case of your request, we do not hold any correspondence on the subject specified.

3. *All correspondence received and sent by the Scottish Parliament, including internally, about Douglas Ross being called a liar in the chamber on October 5, 2023, between that date and the date of this FOI?*

We do not hold any internal correspondence or correspondence with MSPs on this subject.

We do, however, hold correspondence with members of the public relating to this incident. This consists of:

- Seven complaints received (and subsequently replied to) by the Presiding Officer's Office;
- One reply from the Presiding Officer's Office to one of the complainants (as at the date of this request) which explains the role of the Presiding Officers.

We consider this correspondence to be exempt from disclosure under Section 30(c) FOI(S)A. The reasons for this are set out in the attached refusal notice.

4. *All minutes/notes held by yourselves from meetings of the parliament's cross-party Palestine group that have taken place since September 1 2023.*

As explained in section 6 of the [Code of Conduct for MSPs](#), cross-party groups (CPGs) are not formal parliamentary business and the minutes of CPG meetings are prepared by the groups themselves.

As such, the Scottish Parliament holds minutes of CPG meetings only for the purpose of publishing them on the webpage of the relevant CPG on behalf of the CPG. Since 1 September 2023, there has been one meeting of the CPG on Palestine. Minutes of this have not yet been provided by the CPG to the SPCB for the purpose of publication. Therefore, we do not hold any information within the scope of this part of your request.

When received by the SPCB, the minutes will be published on the CPG webpage at the following link: [Palestine | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

In line with the technical requirements of FOI(S)A, we have provided a notice advising that the information requested in parts 2 and 4 of your request 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: [FOI Request Disclosure Log | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

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,

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 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 [Contact Scotland BSL](#).

Email: 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: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

Telephone: 01334 464610

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.

How to contact us

Post: The Scottish Parliament
 Edinburgh
 EH99 1SP

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

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

Email: info@parliament.scot