



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Information Management and Governance
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

foi.officer@parliament.scot

29 June 2023

Dear Requester,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: 2023-689529

We acknowledge your request for the following information:

It has been widely reported that since the SNP have held the sitting Government that the First Minister and Minister have not claimed pay awards from around 2008.

What I require under this FOI what authority does the Scottish Parliament have to not make full payment of salary awards to the First Minister and Ministers.

Can you confirm that the Parliament pays them the full amount or not.

If the full current salary is taken can you confirm or not if they pay the Parliament the money back or they pay the excess to the Scottish Government?

Your request was received on 20 June 2023 and has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOI(S)A).

Scottish Government Ministers are paid in accordance with the Scottish Parliament Salaries Scheme. The Scheme provides for a salary reduction only where an MSP is also a Member of the House of Commons or the House of Lords, or where an individual is imprisoned. It also provides that any increase in salaries will be directly linked to public sector pay rises in Scotland.

Scottish Government Ministers and Law Officers agreed to freeze their pay at the April 2009 pay level. The Salaries Scheme does not give the power to withhold a salary increase. In order therefore to implement the pay freeze the

equivalent net value of the difference between Scottish Government Ministers' salary level at April 2009 and the current salary level is deducted on a monthly basis and payments are then repaid to the Scottish Government for payment into the Scottish Consolidated Fund.

We can therefore confirm that there is a mechanism in place to reduce the salaries paid to Scottish Government Ministers from the salaries published on the [Scottish Parliament website](#). You can access information about the salaries paid to Ministers and Law Officers and the pay freeze commitment in the Scottish Government's Consolidated Accounts. The latest published version for 2021-22 (with salary information and details of the pay freeze commitment at pages 88 and 89) can be found on the [Scottish Government website](#).

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](#)

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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,

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: 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 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