



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Information Management and Governance
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

foi.officer@parliament.scot

24 April 2024

Dear Requester,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: 2024-032805

We acknowledge your request for information seeking:

Please provide a definitive meaning of the word “hate” together with guidance as to its interpretation to the “Hate Act” which comes into force next Monday 1ST April.

Your request was received on 28 March 2024 and has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOI(S)A).

We are interpreting your request as asking for information about the definition of the word ‘hate’ and its interpretation within the context of the:

1. Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 which came into force on 1 April 2024.

The information you have requested is not held by the Scottish Parliament and therefore we cannot provide it to you. This is because interpretation of the law is a matter for the courts. The question of whether an offence has been committed is a matter for the Police and the Crown.

For information about hate crime in Scotland and the interpretation of Hate Crimes under the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 you will need to contact the Scottish Government.

The Scottish Government and Scottish Parliament are two separate organisations. Requests for information to the Scottish Government can be submitted to the following postal address.

General Enquiries Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

To assist you with this request you can access information about the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 on the fact sheet provided by the Scottish Government, details of which can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-act-factsheet/>. A copy of the fact sheet is also attached.

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: [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 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,

Ann Marie Partridge
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.

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