

THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

REFUSAL NOTICE

Request Number: 2019-622556

Date: 21 February 2019

This refusal notice is provided in accordance with section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 ("the Act").

You have requested certain information which we are not providing to you as it is otherwise accessible. The accompanying letter describes where the information you seek is available.

Section 16 of the Act requires us to complete a refusal notice when we are not providing information which is otherwise accessible. The details we are required to include in this refusal notice are set out below.

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| Information which is the subject of the request | Can you please tell me how much the all the bars and restaurants in the Scottish Parliament are subsidised by, and how much subsidise the MSPs receive and the total cost of running the bars and restaurants. |
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| Information which is otherwise accessible | Catering services financial information in the Scottish Parliament. |
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| Exemption(s) | Section 25 - Information otherwise accessible |
| Why exemption(s) applies | <p>In relation to the first part of your request concerning the subsidy received for the bars and restaurants in the Scottish Parliament, the information that you have requested is exempt from disclosure in terms of section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA). Section 25 provides that information is exempt from disclosure where the requester can reasonably obtain the information without asking for it under FOISA. The information that you have requested is already available through our publication scheme and can be accessed at the following link:</p> <p>https://www.parliament.scot/abouttheparliament/67629.aspx</p> <p>The catering services financial information shows the income, direct outlet costs (food and labour), profit or deficit</p> |

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| | <p>for each of the catering services. The total generic labour and overheads for all the services are shown and include, for example, the management team, equipment maintenance and purchase, training and cleaning materials. The catering services financial information also shows the amount of the subsidy received for the catering services. This information is available for each of the financial years from 2013-2014 to 2018-2019.</p> <p>As concerns the second part of your request we can confirm that MSP's do not receive a subsidy in this regard.</p> |
| <p>Public interest (where relevant)</p> | <p>As section 25 is an absolute exemption we do not require to consider the public interest test.</p> |