

Our Ref: GL009  
21 May 2021

Sent by email: [request-749617-302f3e2b@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-749617-302f3e2b@whatdotheyknow.com)

Dear Ms Quinlan

## **REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002 (“The Act”)**

Thank you for your correspondence of 22 April 2021 where you asked for information relating to Whiteinch Library. For reference, the full details of your request are set out in the Annex to this letter.

Culture & Sport Glasgow (trading as Glasgow Life) is treating your request as a request for information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. We can confirm that Glasgow Life holds some of the information that you have requested.

Glasgow Life’s response to each of your questions are set out in the Annex to this letter.

On inspecting our records it would appear that some of the information requested is covered by an exemption(s) contained within the Act. The reasons for this are contained within the attached Annex. The Annex also explains why some of the requested information has not been provided to you.

### **Right of Review**

If you are dissatisfied with the way Glasgow Life has dealt with your request you are entitled to require Glasgow Life to review its decision. Please note that for a review to take place you must:

- Lodge a written requirement for a review within 40 working days of the date of this letter
- Include your full name, a correspondence address, a description of the original request and the reason why you are dissatisfied.
- Include the reference number as provided at the top of this letter.
- Address your request to the following Director



Director of Cultural Services  
Glasgow Life  
38 Albion Street  
Glasgow G1 1LH

Email: [FOI@glasgowlife.org.uk](mailto:FOI@glasgowlife.org.uk)

You will receive notice of the results of the review within 20 working days of receipt of your request. The notice will state the decision reached by the reviewing officer as well as details of how to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner if you are still dissatisfied with Glasgow Life's response. You must request an internal review by Glasgow Life before a complaint can be directed to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

For your information, an appeal can be made to the Scottish Information Commissioner by contacting his office as follows if you do remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the Glasgow Life's review decision:

Address: Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS.  
Email: [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info)  
Telephone: 01334 464610

You can also use the Scottish Information Commissioner's online appeal service to make an application for a decision: [www.itspublicknowledge.info/appeal](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/appeal)

If you wish to submit a complaint in relation to the manner in which Glasgow Life has handled your request for information then you can do so by requesting that the Glasgow Life review its decision. Details of how to request a review are set out in the above paragraph "Right of Review".

Yours sincerely

Information Compliance Team  
Glasgow Life

<https://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/the-small-print/privacy-statement-for-glasgow-life>

## ANNEX

**Glasgow Life's response to your information request is noted below (numbered for ease of reference).**

*1. A copy of the equality impact assessment carried out in relation to the proposed closure/relocation of Whiteinch Library.*

**As you may be aware, all of Glasgow Life's venues required to close in 2020 as a result of the Coronavirus and associated legislation. As part of the Glasgow City Council's budget for 2021/22 the decision was made to reopen over 90 Glasgow Life managed venues, Whiteinch Library was not one of the venues.**

**Whilst no decision has been taken as to when some libraries may reopen, no decision has been made that they shall close permanently.**

**Glasgow Life manage library facilities on behalf of Glasgow City Council. Please note that Glasgow City Council are responsible for any decisions made to permanently close any libraries.**

**In March 2021, Glasgow City Council provided more financial certainty for Glasgow Life by providing a £100 million safety net. This allowed us to agree with the Council more than 90 venues which can reopen as restrictions allow. This fixed operating budget is nearly 15% lower than the budget we operated to before the pandemic. It is now fully used on the venues identified for reopening, and services identified for restart. Additional funding would be required to enable us to open more venues but please note Glasgow City Council has not made any decision regarding the permanent closure of venues.**

**Information on Whiteinch Library services is available on our website here:**

**<https://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/news/update-on-maryhill-and-whiteinch-libraries>**

**We can advise that no Equality Impact Assessment has been completed with regard to Whiteinch Library. We are therefore unable to comply with this part of your request in terms of section 17(1)(b) of the Act.**

**By way of advice and assistance, we can advise that Glasgow Life has undertaken a high-level Equality Impact Assessment of Glasgow Life's budget proposals. This document was considered as part of the overall budget proposals by Glasgow City Council on 11 March 2021 and can be found here:**

**<http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/councillorsandcommittees/viewSelectedDocument.asp?c=P62AFQDNDXZ3DNDNT>**

*2. Any reports compiled regarding the proposed closure/relocation of the library dated within the last three years.*

**As explained above no decision has been made to close Whiteinch Library permanently. As part of the Glasgow City Council's budget for 2021/22 the decision was made to reopen over 90 Glasgow Life managed venues, Whiteinch Library was not one of the venues.**

**We would advise that Glasgow Life does hold some of the information you have requested regarding the proposed relocation of the library and also information**

relating to discussions surrounding Whiteinch Library. We consider some of the information requested in part 2 of your request to be exempt from release under FOI in terms of sections 30(c), 30(b)(ii) and 33(1)(b) of the Act. We also consider that the information held by Glasgow Life relating to discussions surrounding Whiteinch Library would be exempt for the same reasons. This is explained further below.

**Section 30(c) – prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs:**

Please be advised that some of the information which you have requested is, in our opinion, exempt from a request under section 1 of the Act because of the exemption contained in section 30(c) of the Act. In other words, in our opinion disclosure of this information, would or would be likely to, substantially prejudice, the effective conduct of public affairs. These are working documents, updated to take into account on-going changes in budgets, evidence gathering, views, priorities and oversight as well as the evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic. The content of these documents is contingent on many different factors and may be updated to take into account these on-going changes. If this type of information were released into the public domain, we are of the view that it would substantially prejudice our ability to plan on-going services.

While we believe the exemption contained in section 30(c) of the Act applies to this information, we would still be obliged to release the information unless the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Glasgow Life acknowledges the significant public interest in openness and transparency and therefore recognises that any request under section 1 of the Act is potentially in the public interest. However, we also believe that the public interest in public authorities being able to plan their on-going services outweighs this public interest in openness and transparency.

**Section 30(b)(ii) – prejudice to the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation:**

Some of the information which you have requested is, in our opinion, exempt from a request under section 1 of the Act because of the exemption contained in section 30(b)(ii) of the Act. In other words, in our opinion disclosure of this information, would or would be likely to, substantially prejudice, the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation. Glasgow Life's planning process can only be carried out with the free and frank exchange of views of the staff members concerned. We are of the view that disclosure of this information at this time could substantially inhibit those involved from giving their views freely, to the substantial prejudice of the quality of the decision-making process.

While we believe the exemption contained in section 30(b)(ii) of the Act applies in this case, we would still be obliged to release the information unless the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Glasgow Life acknowledges the significant public interest in openness and transparency and therefore recognises that any request under section 1 of the Act is potentially in the public interest. However, it is also in the public interest to ensure that our staff are able to make these types of decisions without inhibition.

**Section 33(1)(b) of the Act – commercial prejudice:**

We are of the view that some of the information consists of financial information (which includes budgetary details and operational costs) and as such is exempt from a request under section 1 of the Act because of the exemption contained in

section 33(1)(b) of the Act. In other words, we believe that disclosure of the information would, or would be likely to, substantially prejudice the commercial interests of Glasgow Life. We are of the view that disclosure of this information would, or would likely to, substantially prejudice Glasgow Life if it were to be released into the public domain.

While we believe the exemption contained in section 33(1)(b) of the Act applies in this case, we would still be obliged to release the information unless the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Glasgow Life acknowledges the significant public interest in openness and transparency and therefore recognises that any request under section 1 of the Act is potentially in the public interest. In the circumstances we feel that the specific public interest in safeguarding the legitimate commercial interests of Glasgow Life outweighs the general public interest in openness and transparency.

*3. Equalities data collected from people who joined the library in Whiteinch in the last three years.*

On inspecting our records it would appear that Glasgow Life does not hold the information which you have requested. Neither does anyone else hold it on our behalf. Accordingly we are unable to comply with this aspect of your request and therefore refuse this part of your request in terms of section 17(1)(b) of the Act.

*4. Documents from any surveys/ property inspections carried out on the library building in the last three years.*

*5. Any quotations received for carrying out works required to the building dated in the last three years.*

*6. Any accessibility report or assessment carried out to the building in the last three years.*

With regards to parts 4, 5 and 6 of your request we can confirm that Whiteinch Library requires a range of upgrade works, although it should be noted that the building is safe to use. We have investigated indicative costs of the works that would be required in the building over the next three year period, these works would require to be substantiated by technical surveys. This information is provided in the attached cyclic maintenance costs document.

In addition to this programme of works, a range of overlay works would also be required to provide a Covid safe building in line with Scottish Government guidelines.

*7. Number of attendees of Bounce and Rhyme groups and Conversational English groups in the last three years.*

<b>Whiteinch Library</b>	<b>2018-19 Attendances</b>	<b>2019-20 Attendances</b>	<b>2020-21 Attendances</b>
Bounce N Rhyme / Bookbug	1,355	1,649	No data reported
ESOL	22	No data reported	No data reported

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Director of Finance and Corporate Services  
Glasgow Life  
38 Albion Street  
Glasgow G1 1LH

Email: [FOI@glasgowlife.org.uk](mailto:FOI@glasgowlife.org.uk)