



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Tel: 0131-348-5281

Robin.Davidson@parliament.scot

25 June 2019

Dear Requester,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: 2019-628513

We acknowledge your request for information seeking:

- 1. The number of staff employed by MSPs over the last five years.*
- 2. The direct costs for providing a catering service for the Scottish Parliament.*

Your request was received on 31 May 2019 and has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOI(S)A).

In response to the first part of your request we have set out below a table giving details of the numbers of staff employed by MSPs over the past five years to the date of your request, on 31 May 2019.

By way of explanation, the figure provided for the financial year 2015/2016 takes account of the dissolution period following the end of the previous Parliamentary Session in March 2016, prior to the new election to the Scottish Parliament taking place on 5 May 2016. This accounts for the lower head count figures for 2015/2016.

The figures provided from the financial year 2016/2017 take account of the increase in the Staff Cost Provision of Members Expenses scheme from £62,300 in financial year 2015/2016 to £85,000 from May 2016. This accounts for the increase in headcount figures (establishment and new start) since 2015/2016.

Financial Year	Annual head count at 31 March
2014/15	472
2015/16	329
2016/17	540
2017/18	557
2018/19	552
2019 (to 31 May)	556

As concerns the second part of your request, information about the cost of providing a catering service to the Scottish Parliament is published on the Scottish Parliament website and can be accessed at the following link:

<https://www.parliament.scot/abouttheparliament/67629.aspx>

As this information is publicly available we do not have to provide it in response to a request under FOI(S)A. We have accordingly attached a refusal notice which explains the position.

The supply of information under FOI does not constitute permission for its use in a way that would infringe copyright.

<http://www.parliament.scot/help/13591.aspx>

We would welcome feedback or comment on how we handled your request. Please feel free to contact the Head of Information Governance at The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP or by e-mail at foi.officer@parliament.scot

Please find below Annex A, which explains how we handle FOI requests and reviews.

Yours sincerely,

Robin Davidson
Information Compliance Officer

Annex A

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:

<https://www.parliament.scot/abouttheparliament/43163.aspx>

Alternatively, please contact the Public Information & Publications Team to request a copy.

<http://www.parliament.scot/visitandlearn/25072.aspx>

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 6913 (Calls using the Text Relay service are welcome.)

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: www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal

Telephone: 01334 464610

Fax: 01334 464611

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:

<https://www.parliament.scot/abouttheparliament/108320.aspx>

Complaints

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which we dealt with your enquiry, then you may wish to raise the matter with the Head of Information Governance.

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.

E-mail: sp.info@parliament.scot