

THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

REFUSAL NOTICE

Request Number: 2022-683093

Date: 23 January 2023

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

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 FOI(S)A 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.

Information which is the subject of the request	<i>Number of meetings held by the Public Audit Committee for the years 2018 – 2022.</i> <i>Number of meetings held by the Public Audit Committee with agenda items in private for the years 2018 – 2022.</i> <i>Copies of papers where most agenda items were in private.</i>
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Information which is otherwise accessible	The total number of meetings held by the Public Audit Committee each year, and the proportion of these meetings which took place in private, is available in the committee's annual reports, published on the Scottish Parliament website. Committee meeting papers are available on the Scottish Parliament website.
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Exemption(s)	Section 25 - Information otherwise accessible
Why exemption(s) applies	Section 25 applies as the following information is available on the Scottish Parliament's website. Information regarding total number of meetings held by the Public Audit Committee, and the proportion of these meetings which took place in private, is available in the committee's annual reports:

	<p>Public Audit Committee (from June 2021 to date of request)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report 2021-22 – (paragraph 19) <p>Public Audit and Post Legislative Scrutiny Committee (January 2018 – March 2021)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report 2020-21 – (paragraph 29) • Annual Report 2019-20 – (paragraph 40) • Annual Report 2018-19 – (paragraph 25) • Annual Report 2017-18 – (paragraph 28) <p>Committee meeting papers, including for business taken in private, are available at the links below:</p> <p>Public Audit Committee (from June 2021 to date of request)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee meeting papers 2021 and 2022 (Click on “+” symbol next to relevant year) <p>Public Audit and Post Legislative Scrutiny Committee (January 2018 – March 2021)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee meeting papers 2021 • Committee meeting papers 2020 • Committee meeting papers 2019 • Committee meeting papers 2018
Public interest (where relevant)	<p>As section 25 is an absolute exemption it is not subject to the public interest test.</p>