



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

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FOI Request no: 2020-652169

30 October 2020

Dear Requester

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ABOUT PUBLIC PETITION PE 1790 ON
PARENTAL AND FAMILIAL ALIENATION**

We acknowledge your request dated 20th October 2020 for the following information:

Per FOISA please supply me with information contained in your records appertaining to the public petitions committee hearing of Petition PE1790 Parental and Familial Alienation the official report can be found at:

- 1. On what legal grounds does the Scottish Parliament have to close the petition on the basis that that parental and familial alienation will be covered in the full consultation on the basis of an MSP's perception of confidence, which is their common-sense option but having no tangible evidence to ensure that this is be covered appropriately.*
- 2. Is it not the case that the Scottish Government have funded various partner agencies and third sector NGO's as part of the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Bill 2018 in training frontline staff in coercive control:*
- 3. What steps have the Scottish Government taken to recover the funding received by these agencies and third sector organisations that have not ensured the 'project; under the conditions of funding, as Scotland's children are still in severe and paramount risk of coercive control and there is no policy or procedure to identify this subtle mental health emergency despite the public purse being raised again for projects that are delivering the set objectives to ensure the paramount wellbeing of the child.*

We also note the terms of your further comments in your email dated 21st October 2020 in terms of which you have stated as follows:

Therefore does the Scottish Parliament actually give any significance to the paramount wellbeing of the child?

As parental alienation is NOT recognised then the comments made by the MSP were ingenious regarding the issues of parental or state alienation legally being considered in the role and training of the child welfare officers.

Please can you clarify this from a legislative perspective?

Your request was received on 20th October and has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOI(S)A).

In response to part 1 of your request and your accompanying email, Petition PE 1790 on Parental and Familial Alienation was considered by the Public Petitions Committee at its meeting on 3rd September 2020. A record of the meeting on 3rd September 2020 is publicly available in the Official Report which can be accessed on the Scottish Parliament website [here](#)

The Committee acknowledged that the Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament understand that there is an issue in relation to parental and familial alienation. Whilst the Committee noted that the Scottish Government submission confirms that there is no provision in the Children (Scotland) Bill requiring the court to consider in every case the possibility of parental alienation, section 8 of the Bill makes provision for the establishment of a register of child welfare reporters in respect of which it is envisaged that their training will include recognising situations where a child has been turned against one parent. Training requirements will be set by regulations and there will be a full public consultation on the criteria in due course.

Having come to this decision, the Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of the Standing Orders.

You can also access the submissions made to the Committee in respect of Petition PE 1790 on [the petitions webpage](#)

As this information is publicly available on the Scottish Parliament website, we have attached a notice in terms of section 25 of FOI(S)A.

As parts 2 and 3 of your request are directed to the Scottish Government you may find it helpful to contact the Scottish Government about these parts of your request. The Scottish Government and Scottish Parliament are two separate organisations. The Scottish Government is responsible for formulating policy and implementing laws that have been passed by the Scottish Parliament.

The Scottish Government can be contacted by:

Emailing: ceu@gov.scot

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

The following webpage includes more information about how to request information from the Scottish Government:

<https://www.gov.scot/about/contact-information/how-to-request-information/>

Further information about the roles of the Scottish Parliament and the Scottish Government together with how laws are made by the Scottish Parliament are available in a number of online leaflets here:

<https://www.parliament.scot/visitandlearn/leaflets-and-guides.aspx>

As we do not have the information requested in parts 2 and 3 of your request, we have attached a notice in terms of the technical requirement of FOI(S)A, advising that this information 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:

<https://www.parliament.scot/abouttheparliament/17700.aspx>

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<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

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

Robin Davidson
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:

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

Alternatively, please contact the Public Information & Publication 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.

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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 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