



Manfred Stobartson  
request-713493-da684408@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Reference: 202000127125  
Your Reference: request-713493-da684408

7 January 2021

Dear Manfred Stobartson,

## **REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002 (FOISA)**

Thank you for your request dated 17 December 2020 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

### Your request

You asked for:

- 1 Total deficit for the past 65 years for:
  - UK
  - Scotland
  - rUK (without Scotland)
  
- 2 Total years (and which years) Scotland had a surplus?  
Total years (and which years) rUK had a surplus?
  
- 3 Years in which Scotland contributed to deficit reduction?

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)



## Response to your request

Most of the information you have requested is publicly available. Under section 25(1) of FOISA, we do not have to give you information which is already reasonably accessible to you. I have listed the relevant data sources below.

Information on the UK deficit for the last 65 years is available from the Office of Budget Responsibility's Public Finances Databank, which provides information on the UK public finances since 1900:

<http://www.obr.uk/data>

Estimates of Scotland's fiscal position since 1998-99 are published as part of the supporting files for the Government Expenditure & Revenue Scotland (GERS) publication:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/government-expenditure-revenue-scotland-gers-2019-20/>

Experimental estimates of Scotland's fiscal position back to 1980-81 are available from the link below. Note that these were produced under an earlier accounting system, the European System of Accounts (1995). Care should be taken when drawing conclusions from these estimates, and the latest published GERS figures should be used from 1998-99 onwards.

<https://www.webarchive.org.uk/wayback/archive/20190108160620/https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statist>

Estimates of Scotland's fiscal position prior to 1980-81 are not held. Estimates of the UK's fiscal position excluding Scotland are also not held. This is a formal notice under section 17(1) of FOISA that the Scottish Government does not have the information you have requested.

## Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your FOI request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by writing to:

Gary Gillespie  
Chief Economist  
Scottish Government  
4WR St Andrews House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

Or by email at [Gary.Gillespie@gov.scot](mailto:Gary.Gillespie@gov.scot).

Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made within 40 working days from the date when you received this letter. We will complete the review in accordance with FOISA as soon as possible, and not later than 20 working days from the day following the date we receive your review request.

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Scottish

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Information Commissioner. More detailed information on your appeal rights is available on the Commissioner's website at: <http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Unhappywiththeresponse/AppealingtoCommissioner.aspx>.

Yours sincerely

Iain Pearce  
**OCEAEA : Macroeconomic and Fiscal**

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)



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