



Marsha Wells
request-835388-a5954d6e@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Reference: 202200282700

25 February 2022

Dear Marsha Wells,

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

Thank you for your request dated 22 February 2022 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

Your request

You asked for:

A SNP MP made the following claim in response to a constituency elector.

"I must also stress that an independent Scotland can completely afford to pay state pensions. Latest figures (GERS: 2020-21) show that even during the pandemic, without borrowing a single penny, Scottish tax revenue covered all devolved day to day spending (e.g., on the NHS and schools) as well as all spending in Scotland on the state pension and Universal Credit"

Is the above statement 100% true?

Response to your request

Based on the figures in the latest Government Expenditure & Revenue Scotland (GERS) publication, Scottish revenue in 2020-21 was £62.8 billion. Total day-to-day devolved spending and spending on the state pension and universal credit was £61.7 billion.

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



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
2 Regent Road
4WR St Andrews House
EH1 3DG

Or by email at 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 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



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