



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Information Management and Governance  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

foi.officer@parliament.scot

25 January 2022

Dear Requester

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: 2022-670524**

We acknowledge your request for the following information:

*Could you provide me with copies of all information including, but not limited to, correspondence and messages exchanged between members, notes of telephone calls, emails and messages on the "Slack" social media tool, held by the Scottish Parliament and the LGBTI+ Cross-Party Group in the 6 weeks prior to the initial meeting of this parliamentary year on 1st September 2021.*

Your request was received on 17 January 2022 and has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOI(S)A).

The information that you have requested is not held by the Scottish Parliament and therefore we cannot provide it to you. The Slack platform is used by Parliamentary Officials to communicate with colleagues about the operation of Chamber proceedings. It is not used to carry messages to Members, or to discuss the business of the LGBTI Cross party group. We do not hold any correspondence on the Slack social media tool within the period of your request.

In relation to your request for correspondence and messages between Members, the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) does not collect or store or have access to correspondence between individual MSPs. While the SPCB provides an IT framework to enable MSPs to communicate by email, parliament staff have no access to that system with the exception of technical staff required to resolve system problems which arise. This does not include accessing any of the actual data contained on the system. For the purposes of FOI legislation, this means that the Scottish Parliament does not hold any of the information contained in MSPs' email communications.

You may wish to contact MSPs directly about this request. You can see a list of current MSPs and how to contact them at the following link:

<https://www.parliament.scot/msps/current-msps.aspx#H>

Please note that MSPs and Cross-party groups are not covered by Freedom of Information and correspondence between Members is not subject to FOI(S)A. This was established by a Decision of the Scottish Information Commissioner in 2005. You can read the content of that Decision at the following link: <https://www.itspublicknowledge.info/200500463.aspx> More information about elected members and their status with regard to FOI is available at the following link: <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2018/02/20/spice-enquiries-faq-msps-and-foi/>

In line with the technical requirements of FOI(S)A we have provided a notice advising that the information you have requested 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://archive2021.parliament.scot/abouttheparliament/17700.aspx>

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

<https://www.parliament.scot/about/copyright>

We would welcome feedback or comment on how we handled your request.

Please feel free to contact the Head of Information Governance at

[foi.officer@parliament.scot](mailto:foi.officer@parliament.scot)

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

**We are currently working remotely and so would ask you to contact us by email at [foi.officer@parliament.scot](mailto:foi.officer@parliament.scot)**

Yours sincerely,

Robin Davidson  
Head of Information Governance

## 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:

[Privacy notice: Information rights: Freedom of Information request handling | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

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

<https://www.parliament.scot/contact-us>

### 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 5281

We welcome calls using the Text Relay service or in British Sign Language through [contactSCOTLAND-BSL](#).

E-mail: [foi.officer@parliament.scot](mailto: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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal)

Telephone: 01334 464610

Fax: 01334 464611

Website: [www.itspublicknowledge.info](http://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**

The supply of information under FOI does not constitute permission for its use in a way that would infringe copyright. Where relevant you should obtain permission from the copyright holder before any such use.

### **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:

[Privacy notice: Information rights: Freedom of Information request handling | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

### **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](mailto:info@parliament.scot)