



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Information Management and Governance
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

foi.officer@parliament.scot

February 2022

Dear Requester

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: 2022-671521

We acknowledge your request for the following information:

-A breakdown of all foreign dignitaries hosted at the Scottish Parliament from 2016 to 2022.

-The cost of hosting each individual foreign dignitary between 2016-22.

-The process by which foreign dignitaries are selected and are invited to visit the Scottish Parliament.

Your request was received on 8 February 2022 and has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOI(S)A).

Responding to each part of your request in turn, the position is as follows:

-A breakdown of all foreign dignitaries hosted at the Scottish Parliament from 2016 to 2022.

It is not possible to provide a complete list of all foreign dignitaries during this period. For example, the Parliament would not hold information on such dignitaries who have visited to meet with individual MSPs, or Cross-Party Groups. However, a list of the international delegations which have visited, where that visit was arranged through the Parliament's International Relations Office, is available on the Parliament's website.

For the period of Session 5 (2016-2021)

[International activity - About the Parliament: Scottish Parliament](#)

For the period of Session 6 (2021-)

[International activity | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

[As this information is publicly available on the Scottish Parliament website we have attached a section 25 notice in terms of the technical requirements under FOI\(S\)A.](#)

As this information is published on the Scottish Parliament website, we have provided a section 25 notice in terms of the technical requirements under FOI(S)A.

-The cost of hosting each individual foreign dignitary between 2016-22.

The costs relating to the 'hosting' of visiting international delegations by the International Relations Office on behalf of the Parliament relate mainly to hospitality (tea, coffee, lunch, dinner). There are also some costs relating to the provision of transport. The Parliament does not pay the travel or accommodation costs of visiting delegations. The cost for each financial year is set out below:

Year	Total
2016-17	£15,234.59
2017-18	£11,924.23
2018-19	£14,958.22
2019-20	£10,397.53
2020-21	£ -
2021-22 (P10)	£1,938.05

There were no visits from international delegations in 2020-21.

-The process by which foreign dignitaries are selected and are invited to visit the Scottish Parliament.

The Parliament does not 'select' nor 'invite' foreign dignitaries to visit. Rather, it responds to requests from other parliaments, governments, international organisations, embassies, consulates etc for a delegation eg parliament Speaker, Ambassador etc to visit the Scottish Parliament. Such requests may be for a meeting with the Presiding Officer, or a Parliament committee etc to discuss areas of shared interest such as policy matters, or procedural (how parliaments work). Or, in the case of an Ambassador or Consul, as a courtesy when they are on an official visit to Edinburgh.

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>

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<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

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

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

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:

[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