



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Information Management and Governance
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

foi.officer@parliament.scot

23 December 2022

Dear Requester,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: 2022-682822

We acknowledge your request for information seeking:

- *How often the Citizens' Advice Panel - which reported to the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee its recommendations through its "bring the parliament to the people, the citizens" report - has met since its formation.*
- *How the Citizens' Advice Panel is funded (e.g., is this met by the Parliament, the Scottish Government directly or another organisation), what budget was set for the Panel originally and how much has been spent as of 14/12/2022.*
- *Who the Citizens' Advice Panel has taken evidence from since their formation.*
- *How, and by what process were the 24 participants of the Citizens' Advice Panel selected.*

Your request was received on 14 December 2022 and has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOI(S)A).

I will address each of your points in turn:

How often the Citizens' Advice Panel - which reported to the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee its recommendations

through its "bring the parliament to the people, the citizens" report - has met since its formation.

The Citizens' Panel has met on 6 occasions since its formation. Details of the meeting are as follows:

The Citizens' Panel met for two full weekends at the Scottish Parliament:

- Friday 28 October 2022- Sunday 30 October 2022
- Friday 18 November 2022- Sunday 20 November 2022

The Citizens' Panel also met online for four shorter evening sessions:

- Thursday 3 November
- Thursday 10 November
- Thursday 17 November
- Thursday 24 November

How the Citizens' Advice Panel is funded (e.g., is this met by the Parliament, the Scottish Government directly or another organisation), what budget was set for the Panel originally and how much has been spent as of 14/12/2022.

The panel is fully funded by the Scottish Parliament budget. The cost of the Citizens' Panel will be around £40,000 and comes from the Scottish Parliament's Participation and Communities Team's deliberative engagement budget.

The majority of the costs incurred relate to recruitment of participants and travel, catering and accommodation for participants. Participants are also offered an honorarium of £330 to incentivise participation and to thank them for their time, which is standard practice in delivery of deliberative events.

The total spend as of 14/12/2022 is £35,900.81

Who the Citizens' Advice Panel has taken evidence from since their formation.

The Citizen's Panel was informed by evidence gathered by the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee through a public consultation with people from across Scotland. The key messages and evidence from this consultation were considered by the Citizens' Panel. You can find out what people said here: [Summary of Views | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

The panel participated in sessions with the following groups:

Scottish Parliament staff:

- The Chief Executive
- Head of Outreach Services
- Senior Researchers
- Committee Clerks
- Chamber Clerks
- Senior Communication Managers

MSPs:

- Maggie Chapman MSP
- Pam Gosal MSP
- David Torrance MSP

Political Scientists:

- Dr Danielle Beswick, University of Birmingham,
- Professor Cristina Leston-Bandeira, University of Leeds
- Professor Will Jennings, University of Southampton.

Experts on deliberative democracy:

- Claudia Chawlisz, Founder of DemocracyNext
- Jonathan Moskovic, Advisor in Democratic Innovation to Brussels French-speaking Parliament
- Andy Williamson, Head of Research, Inter-Parliamentary Union
- Kelly McBride, Deliberative Democracy Lead, TPX Impact
- Dr Oliver Escobar, University of Edinburgh
- Professor Ian O'Flynn, University of Newcastle
- Professor Cristina Lafont, Northwestern University (Illinois, USA)

Members of the public from the following under-represented groups:

- Individuals with lived experience of low income
- Young people
- People from ethnic minorities
- People with disabilities
- People living in rural areas

Organisations that represent under-represented groups:

- Scottish Rural Action
- Voluntary Health Scotland
- Children and Young People Centre for Justice
- Inclusion Scotland
- Poverty Alliance
- Engage Renfrewshire
- Edinburgh and Lothians Regional Equality Council
- Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament
- Aberlour Children's Charity

A journalist:

- Colin Mackay, political editor for STV

The members of the public who gave evidence to the Panel had participated in focus groups in June 2022 as part of the Committee's inquiry. You can learn more about the focus groups here:

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/committees/current-and-previous-committees/session-6-citizen-participation-and-public-petitions-committee/business-items/public-participation-inquiry/participation-inquiry-summary-of-views>

How, and by what process were the 24 participants of the Citizens' Advice Panel selected.

The Panel members were selected by an independent 3rd party, the non-profit Sortition Foundation, who issued 4,800 invitation letters to randomly selected households in Scotland from the Royal Mail address database. This covered all eight Parliamentary regions of Scotland. The invitations asked recipients to register their interest in taking part and provide demographic information.

Once registration closed, 24 people were randomly selected from those who registered their interest to take part in the event. This random selection was weighted to make sure that the sample was broadly representative of the Scottish population. Some of the individuals selected were unable to participate. The Panel comprised 19 people by the beginning of the event.

Anyone aged 16 and over by the close of registrations, who is normally resident in Scotland and who lives full or part time at an address that had received this invitation could apply to take part, with a few exceptions, such as elected representatives and employees of political parties.

More information about the selection process can be found on the Sortition Foundation's website:

https://www.sortitionfoundation.org/scotland_parliament_participation_2022_report

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We would welcome feedback or comment on how we handled your request. Please feel free to contact the Head of Information Governance 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,

Cara Dickson
Information Compliance Officer

**REQUESTS MADE UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002**

How we handle FOI requests

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[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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We would welcome feedback or comment on how we handled your request. Please contact the Head of Information Governance.

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[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
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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