



Scottish
Commission
on Social
Security

Scottish Commission on Social Security
c/o Secretariat
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23 August 2021

(redacted)

(redacted)

By email only

Dear (redacted),

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

Thank you for your request dated 26 July 2021 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

Your request

You asked for:

1. All the costs incurred to date by the Social Security Commission, ranging from the commission's initiation to the present date with a full breakdown of those costs.
2. A full membership list for any members of commission between its initiation and the present date.
3. A list of all engagement (written correspondence, meetings and attendance at events) with Scottish Ministers and Cabinet Secretaries between its initiation and the present date.

As you did not specify the format you wished to receive the information in we have provided this in an electronic format.

Response to your request

SCoSS is able to provide some of the information you requested and where we could not we explain fully the reason for this.

1. Costs:

- 2018-19: The information you have requested is available in Scottish Government's [annual report and accounts](#). Under section 25(1) of FOISA, we

do not have to give you information which is already reasonably accessible to you however the information you have requested is available via the hyperlink above.

- 2019-20: The information you have requested is available on SCoSS's temporary webpage. Under section 25(1) of FOISA, we do not have to give you information which is already reasonably accessible to you however I have included a link to the [document](#).
- 2020-21: The annual report and accounts for 2020-21 are currently being produced and, as these will be published within 12 weeks of your FOI request, under section 27(1) of FOISA, we consider it is reasonable to delay disclosing the information until the planned date of publication.
- Please be aware that this exemption is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption. This is because while the annual report and accounts are still in production, we would risk disclosing incorrect breakdowns of expenditure.
- 2021-22: We are able to disclose that from 1 April 2021 to 31 July 2021, SCoSS's expenditure was £44,367.54. However we are unable to provide a breakdown of these figures as under section 38(1)(b) of FOISA, as this would risk disclosing employee personal data.
- Please be aware that this exemption is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption. This is because we consider it reasonable that employees' personal data is not published.

2. Membership: All of the information you have requested is available from SCoSS's [temporary webpage](#). Under section 25(1) of FOISA, we do not have to give you information which is already reasonably accessible to you. However, it is also helpful to note for your information, that the membership of the Commission has not changed since its initiation.

3. Engagement: Below is a list of the meetings and attendance at events that SCoSS has had with Scottish Ministers and Cabinet Secretaries from initiation to the date of your request:

Meetings

1 May 2019	Meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Social Security
6 February 2020	Meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Social Security

12 November 2020
21 June 2021

Meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Social Security
Meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice,
Housing and Local Government and the Minister for
Social Security and Local Government

Events

10 July 2019

The Cabinet Secretary for Social Security attended a
SCoSS Board meeting for one agenda item.

4. Correspondence

The majority of correspondence SCoSS had with Scottish Ministers and Cabinet Secretaries is available from the publications section of SCoSS's [temporary webpage](#). Under section 25(1) of FOISA, we do not have to give you information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

Where correspondence has not been published I have included a list at **Annex A**. Some of the correspondence does not come under section 27(1) of FOISA as it is information intended for future publication however I have included it in the list at **Annex A**.

I trust this information is helpful in satisfying your request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA), in particular where we have been able to fully provide the information requested.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if there is any further clarification required on the information we have provided.

Yours sincerely,

(redacted)
(redacted), Scottish Commission on Social Security

Annex A

Date	Form	Purpose
8 February 2019	Letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Social Security	To inform the Cabinet Secretary that SCoSS was 'open for business'.
26 February 2019	Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Social Security	In response to the letter above and to arrange a meeting with SCoSS.
28 February 2019	Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Social Security	To update SCoSS on the Scottish Government's plans for delivery of devolved benefits.
5 November 2020	Letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Social Security	To inform the Cabinet Secretary that SCoSS had published their Interim Report.
18 November 2020	Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Social Security	To update SCoSS on the Scottish Government's plans for delivery of the first Scottish Disability Assistance benefits.
26 November 2020	Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Social Security	To inform SCoSS that the draft Social Security Co-ordination (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendments Etc.) Regulations 2020 were laid in Parliament.
1 December 2020	Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Social Security	To inform SCoSS that the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 Progress report 2019 – 2020 was published.
17 December 2020	Letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Social Security	To submit SCoSS's further scrutiny report on the Disability Assistance for Children and Young People (Scotland) Regulations.
12 February 2021	Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Social Security	To extend thanks to SCoSS for the scrutiny report on the Disability Assistance for Children and Young People (Scotland) Regulations 2021.
14 June 2021	Letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Social Security	To congratulate the Cabinet Secretary on their

	Justice, Housing and Local Government	appointment and request a meeting with them.
14 June 2021	Letter to the Minister for Social Security and Local Government	To congratulate the Minister on their appointment and request a meeting with them.
25 June 2021	Letter from the Minister for Social Security and Local Government	To refer to SCoSS the draft Disability Assistance for Children and Young People (Scotland) Amendment Regulations.
25 June 2021	Letter from the Minister for Social Security and Local Government	To refer to SCoSS the draft Suspension of Assistance (Social Security) (Scotland) Regulations.
25 June 2021	Letter from the Minister for Social Security and Local Government	To refer to SCoSS the draft Disability Assistance for Working Age People (Scotland) Regulations for Adult Disability Payment.