

08 July 2022

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## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

### REQUEST DETAILS

Please find below our response to your correspondence dated 21 June 2022 in which you made the following request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002:

- What information is held on the political affiliation of board members and/or senior staff within your organisation?
- The current annual cost of press and media for your organisation, and the total number of personnel employed to handle press and media for your organisation
- What guidelines have been issued to your organisation by the Scottish Government on press releases and media?

### RESPONSE

Your request for information has been considered and the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) is able to provide the following;

1. The Authority does not hold information on the political affiliation of its Board members or staff. All Board members are publicly appointed by Scottish Ministers and comply with the [Authority's Code of Conduct](#) for members. Authority Members publish a register of interest on the Authority's website. The [Standards Commission for Scotland](#) encourages high ethical standards in public life through the promotion and enforcement of Codes of Conduct for public appointments. Staff are required to comply with the Authority's Code of Conduct for Authority and Police staff, which requires our staff to maintain impartiality. Some posts have formal political restrictions applied.

The SPA does not hold the information you have requested.

Therefore, this represents a notice in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Information not held

2. The Authority does not breakdown the annual costs of its media and press activity. The Authority has an External Relations function, consisting of one FTE External Relations Officer, supported and managed by one FTE Governance and External Relations Lead, who also has responsibility for the delivery of governance support services. The External Relations function has a range of duties including the Authority's development, planning and co-ordination of consistent communications and engagement including with public, partners and stakeholders, across a range of channels including face to face, online, and via our website. Any media and press engagement and activity is conducted in-house by the team as one part of their wider responsibilities. The annual staffing cost of this wider function, including the Governance and External Relations Lead, and including on-costs, was £129,741 in 2021/22. An on-call payment is made to staff to cover any media and press calls out of hours. The annual cost of this 2021/22 was £2,751. The Authority has a contract in place for a media monitoring service, at an annual cost of £6,504.
3. The Scottish Government provides guidance for the pre-election period which applies to all national devolved public bodies and covers the handling of business up to and during the pre-election period. This guidance is made publicly available on the Scottish Government website. The Authority holds no other information or guidance from the Scottish Government on media or press guidance.

The SPA does not hold the information you have requested. Therefore, this response represents a notice in terms of:

- Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Information not held.

By way of assistance, information may be available via the links provided above or visit the Scottish Government website here:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-local-government-election-guidance-2022/>

## **RIGHT TO REVIEW**

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been dealt with you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to [foi@spa.police.uk](mailto:foi@spa.police.uk) or by post to Corporate Management Team, Scottish Police Authority, 1 Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1DZ.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision.

You can apply [online](#), by email to [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Scottish Police Authority Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.