

## **Annex**

### **Reasons for not providing information**

I have reviewed the estimate of costs in the original response of 10 August 2020 and carried out my own calculations based on a sample search of 20 documents.

In preparing this estimate, I have based the cost on an hourly rate of £15.00 for staff time. As set out in the original response, your request would require a search under the term "parental alienation" and then consideration of each document to see whether the term referred to is being disputed. As noted in our initial response a search under the term "parental alienation" returned 781 documents held on the corporate records management system.

In conducting my review, I have revised the time estimated that it would take to review each document to carry out an initial assessment of whether it is within scope. I have estimated it would take 1 minute and 15 seconds per document for the initial sift. This would cost £243.75. ( $781 \times 75 = 781$ ,  $781/600 = 16$  hours and 15 minutes. Total cost would be  $16.15$  hours  $\times$  £15 per hour.)

In addition to this, 10 Scottish Government officials would require to carry out the same search within their email accounts and personal records storage at an estimated time of 12 minutes each. ( $10 \times 12 = 120$ ,  $120/60 = 2$  hours. Total cost would be 2 hours  $\times$  £15 per hour = £30.)

Total time for sift = 1095 minutes

Of the 20 documents sifted it was found that 2 of these documents were out of scope, I have therefore assumed that this would be replicated across the documents for the purposes of this estimate. 10% ( $2/20 \times 100$ ) of the 781 (78) initial documents would fall out with scope of the request. Total documents to be considered is 703 (781-78).

I note your comments in relation to the application of section 38(1)(b) of FOISA. You may find it helpful to note that we consider that names and contact details of junior Scottish Government staff, names and contact details of junior individuals from third party organisations and details of members of the public would all fall within the definition of personal data and therefore consider that this information would be exempt from disclosure under section 38(1)(b). As noted in our initial response we consider that some further information may also be exempt from disclosure under the provisions of the Act.

I have however reviewed our initial determination that all of the documents would require some time for redaction. Based on my sample, I have estimated that some documents will either be released in full or withheld in their entirety and therefore not subject to redaction. My estimate for this is 10% of the 703 documents (( $703 \times 10/100$ ) will not require redaction. Therefore 633 (703-70) of the documents will require redaction.

Having completed the required redaction, in 5 documents, this took me 20 minutes, therefore I have allowed an average time of 4 minutes per document to complete the physical redactions required and prepare these documents for disclosure.  $633 \times 4 = 2532$  minutes.

This amounts to a total resource time of 3627 minutes (1095 + 2532) which is 60 hours and 27 minutes.

The total cost is £906.75 (60 hours and 27 minutes hours x £15).

Note: This cost does not take account of any information which may be identified by the 10 Scottish Government officials who would be asked to undertake a search for information to yet saved to our corporate records management system. If any further information was identified as a result of these searches, I am satisfied that this would further increase the estimated cost of complying with your request.