

FOI reference number: 202200317688

Exemptions definitions and reasoning:

Section 27(1) – information intended for future publication

An exemption under section 27(1) of FOISA applies to some of the information requested because we intend to publish the survey results in full later this year. This will be within 12 weeks of your request.

We are currently analysing the survey results in order to be able to provide important context about how responses vary (for example, by age, region, sector, employment).

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. We recognise that there is public interest in disclosing information as part of open, transparent and accountable government, and to inform public debate and this will be met by our planned publication.

In the meantime, there is a greater public interest in taking the time necessary to ensure the information has been properly collated, analysed and checked before it is published, as planned. Also, we see no public interest in disrupting our programme of work to release the information ahead of the intended publication date.

Section 29(1) FOISA

An exemption under section 29(1)(a) of FOISA (formulation or development of government policy) applies to some of the information requested, because it relates to the development of the Scottish Government’s policy position on the subject matter in question – namely Scotland’s energy requirements and achieving a just transition to net zero.

We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosing information as part of open, transparent and accountable government, and to inform public debate. However, there is a greater public interest in high quality policy and decision-making, and in the properly considered implementation and development of policies and decisions. This means that Ministers and officials need to be able to consider all available options and to debate those rigorously, to fully understand their possible implications.