

## Reasons for not providing information

### The Scottish Government does not hold the information requested

The Scottish Government does not have the information you have asked for. There has been no correspondence between the Scottish Government and the Republic pressure group in relation to The King's visit to Edinburgh in July 2023. As such, I hereby provide you with formal notice under section 17(1) of FOISA that the Scottish Government does not have the information you have requested.

### Exemptions Applied

An exemption under section 38(1)(b) of FOISA applies to some of the information you have requested. This is because it relates to personal data of a third party i.e. names and contact details of individuals and disclosing it would contravene the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation and in section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018. This exemption is not subject to the 'public interest test', so we are not required to consider if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption.

An exemption under Section 30 (b) (i) (the free and frank provision of advice) applies to some of the information you have requested. This exemption applies because disclosure would, or would be likely to, inhibit substantially the free and frank provision of advice to Ministers and Senior Officials. The exemption recognises the need for Ministers and officials to have a private space within which to seek advice on specific projects and work. Disclosing the content of free and frank advice would substantially inhibit such communication in the future. 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 some public interest in disclosing information as part of open, transparent and accountable government and to inform public debate. However, this is outweighed by the public interest in allowing a private space within which officials and colleagues can provide free and frank advice and communications on specific projects such this to facilitate their effective organisation and delivery.

An exemption under Section 30(c) (the effective conduct of public affairs) applies to some of the information you have requested. Disclosing this information would substantially prejudice our ability to conduct similar major events with Police Scotland and other delivery partners because doing so would undermine safety and security arrangements.

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 a public interest in disclosing information as part of open, transparent and accountable government and to inform public debate. However, this is outweighed by the public interest in ensuring that the Scottish Government and its partners are able conduct this aspect of business effectively in the interests of public safety.