

REASONS FOR NOT PROVIDING INFORMATION

An exemption applies

An exemption(s) under section(s) s.38(1) of FOISA applies to some of the information you have requested. This exemption applies to some of the information requested because it is personal data of a third party, i.e. names and contact details, 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. At several points in the Annex, names and other personal data have been marked as redacted.

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 applies, subject to the public interest test

Exemptions under sections s.29(1)(a) and s.30(b)(i) of FOISA apply to some of the information you have requested.

These exemptions are subject to the 'public interest test'. 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, there is a greater public interest in high quality policy and decision-making, including encouraging the provision of free and frank advice from officials and a similarly free exchange of views between Scottish Ministers and members of the Scottish Green Party Parliamentary Group for the purposes of deliberation and development of policies such as the Scottish Budget. To release this briefing material would be likely to inhibit substantially the free and frank exchanges between Scottish Ministers and Scottish Green Party Parliamentary Group required during the Budget process. This would undermine arrangements designed to allow the Scottish Government and the Green Group to seek to achieve maximum cooperation and collaboration on the broadest range of the Government's responsibilities, as set out in the Bute House Agreement.