

FOI RESPONSE ISSUED - 29 MAY 2023

REQUEST

- The total amount spent in the last five financial years on public relations, both in-house and externally (split if possible).
- The total number of public relations officers or communications officers employed by your organisation over the last five years

OUR RESPONSE TO THE INFORMATION REQUEST UNDER THE 2002 ACT

We confirm that we do hold this information. However, we consider that in relation to the first part of your request we are exempt from disclosing the information because the following exemption applies:

Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - the information is otherwise accessible.

We publish annual expenditure information on public relations on our website as soon as practicable after the end of the financial year as part of our Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 requirements.

The total amount spent in the last five financial years on public relations is included in the [expenditure details](#) we publish.

Included in the published website information is a breakdown of the annual public relations cost. The staff costs are all 'in-house'.

The following activities are included in our external communications work:

- providing media relations cover and media monitoring
- managing and maintaining our websites
- producing corporate publications, content and material for the public, legally-aided people and the legal profession
- managing our social media activity

For the second part of your request I can confirm that the costs listed on our website relate to the employment of two communications staff, who as well as providing our external communications handle all internal communications.

We have read your request to mean the total number employed at any one time.

In the event you were requesting the total number of communications staff in that five year period then the number is three - a communications officer left and a replacement was recruited in 2020.