



Scotland Office

Oifis na h-Albainn

Dover House
Whitehall
SW1A 2AU

4 February 2011

Dear [REDACTED],

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

Thank you for your email sent to the Scotland Office on 8 January which we received on the same day.

You asked for information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. The Scotland Office is not subject to the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 which applies only to devolved bodies in Scotland. The Scotland Office is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which applies (among other bodies) to UK government departments. I am answering your request in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The information you requested was

I would like to know what gifts and hospitality has been offered by your organisation to others between 1st January 2010 and 31 December 2010. I would like to know what the gift/hospitality was, its value and whether it was accepted or not and if held the reason for its offering.

I would also like to know who each gift/hospitality was offered to but where appropriate without names, ie, member of the public, MP, MSP, Councillor etc; In relation to this I would ask your organisation to consider that there is a public interest in knowing who is receiving gifts/hospitality from a public body, particularly where it is being funded by the public purse. It is reasonable to conclude that it is in the interest of the organisation to be as open and transparent as possible when it comes to 'perks' being dished out from public funds. I would ask your organisation to consider that there is a public interest in recipients being named where they hold senior positions and accountable positions such as elected representatives and senior staff from public organisations.

When providing this information I would also like a copy of any policy documents held by your organisation in relation to the offering of gifts and hospitalities.

I am writing to confirm that the Scotland Office has now completed its search for information. I will respond to your request in three parts.



(1) The Scotland Office does not hold any information about gifts offered between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2010. It is not Office policy to offer gifts to others.

(2) Information about occasions on which the Scotland Office provided hospitality to others between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2010 is listed below

Jobs Summit (Glasgow)	£1651.80	c 120 attendees including MSPs, business leaders, trade union officials and members of the public
Faith Leaders Lunch	£352.20	Faith leaders
Key Influencers Dinner	£754.70	Leading Scottish stakeholders
Jobs Summit (Kilmarnock)	£319.00	c 50 attendees including MPs, MSPs, business leaders, trade union officials and members of the public
Jobs Summit (Dundee)	£300.00	c 50 attendees including MPs, MSPs, business leaders, trade union officials and members of the public
Budget seminar	£229.57	Leaders from the business and financial sector, third sector, academia, other public sector leaders and trade unions.
Papal Nuncio lunch	£545.76	Papal Nuncio and other faith leaders
Armed Forces Day reception	£1562.01	C 50 service personnel, veterans, MPs, MSPs and members of the public
Budget seminar	£244.20	Leaders from the business and financial sector, third sector, academia, other public sector leaders and trade unions.
Energy leaders meeting	£346.82	Energy industry stakeholders
Trooping the Colour reception	£1922.41	MPs, Peers with Scottish interests, stakeholders, and media correspondents
Seminar on the Implementation of the recommendations of the Commission on Scottish Devolution	£42.85	Leaders from the legal, business and financial sectors, academia and trade unions
Edinburgh Festivals Reception	£1608.61	Organisers, sponsors and participants in the festivals
Rwanda International Development Event	£37.50	Leaders from academic and third sectors
Scottish MPs & Peers Reception	£589.23	MPs, Peers with Scottish interests, stakeholders, and media correspondents
Lunch for the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland	£3259.11	MPs, Peers with Scottish interests, stakeholders, and media correspondents

(3) All expenditure is incurred in accordance with HM Treasury's guidance *Managing public money*. This document is already accessible by other means as it is published on the Treasury website. http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psr_mpm_index.htm

I hope you find this helpful.



If you are dissatisfied with the decision made in relation to your request you may ask for an internal review. A request for an internal review should be addressed to:

FOI Officer
1 Melville Crescent
EDINBURGH
EH3 7HW

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The contact details are:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
CHESHIRE
SK9 5AF

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]