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Information Management And Governance
Team
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FOI Request no: 2016-563424

25 July 2016

Dear Mr Nifield,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION 2016-563424

We acknowledge your request for information asking the following:

“Are there any provisions in Scottish Parliament regulations for any Members to claim accommodation costs within Scotland if they do not live in Scotland? To clarify, would hypothetically, a member of the Parliament who was living in England be able to claim accommodation costs in Edinburgh and elsewhere in Scotland (as part of their duties as an MSP?)”

Your request was received on 15 July 2016 and has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

No provision is made within the Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme to meet overnight expenses incurred while staying in Edinburgh by a Member whose main residence is not located in Scotland.

All members are entitled to the reimbursement of costs of overnight accommodation outside Edinburgh but within the UK when the performance of parliamentary duties prevents the member from using the member's main residence or any other residence.

Full details of the Accommodation Provision made within the Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme maybe found at Section 2 of the Scheme a link to which is attached.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Allowancesandexpensesresources/Members Expenses Scheme without text of the resolution for website.pdf>

In keeping with our FOI procedures, this information may also be posted on the Parliament's disclosure log (usually within 24 hours). For further details on the Parliament's Disclosure Log and the information released under FOI, visit:

<http://www.parliament.scot/help/17700.aspx>

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<http://www.parliament.scot/help/13591.aspx>

We would welcome feedback or comment on how we handled your request. Please feel free to contact the Head of Information Governance at The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP or by e-mail at foi.officer@parliament.scot

Please find below Annex A, which explains how we handle FOI requests and reviews.

Yours sincerely

Claire Turnbull
Head of Information Governance

REQUESTS MADE UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

How we handle FOI requests

Information on how we handle FOI requests is available on the Parliament's website at:

<http://www.parliament.scot/help/43163.aspx>

Alternatively, please contact the Public Information & Publication Team to request a copy.

<http://www.parliament.scot/visitandlearn/25072.aspx>

Review

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which we have dealt with your request for information, you can ask us to review our decision and actions. You must do this in writing (or other permanent form) within 40 working days of the date of this letter, stating the reasons for your dissatisfaction, and we will respond within 20 working days of receipt. A request for a review should be made to the Head of Information Governance:

Post: Head of Information Governance
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Telephone: 0131 348 6913 (Calls using the Text Relay service are welcome.)

E-mail: foi.officer@parliament.scot

Application to the Scottish Information Commissioner

If, on the outcome of any review, you are still dissatisfied, or if we are unable to resolve any other complaint, then you can contact the Scottish Information Commissioner:

Post: The Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9DS

Telephone: 01334 464610

Fax: 01334 464611

Website: www.itspublicknowledge.info

A decision by the Scottish Information Commissioner may be appealed on a point of law to the Court of Session.

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Feedback or comment

We would welcome feedback or comment on how we handled your request. Please contact the Head of Information Governance.

Complaints

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which we dealt with your enquiry, then you may wish to raise the matter with the Head of Information Governance.

How to contact us

Post: The Scottish Parliament
 Edinburgh
 EH99 1SP

Telephone: 0131 348 5000
 0800 092 7500 (Public Enquiries)
 0131 348 5395 (Gàidhlig)

We also welcome calls using the Text Relay service.

E-mail: sp.info@parliament.scot