



Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Duties to provide information on certain expenditure

Statement published by the Scottish Information Commissioner as required
under section 31 of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

For the year to 31 March 2026

Public Relations

External PR	£18,832.17
Internal PR (cost of staff time)	£42,466.69

Overseas Travel

Payee	Description	Total
Commissioner	International Conference of Information Commissioners – Berlin, Germany	£696.18
Commissioner	Open Government Partnership Conference – Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain	£837.47
Depute Head of Policy & Information	International Conference of Information Commissioners – Berlin, Germany	£707.69
Depute Head of Enforcement	Conference Munich, Germany	£603.33

Hospitality & Entertainment

None

External Consultancy

Payee	Description	Total
Anderson Strathern	Legal support	£56,056.80
Audit Scotland	External Audit Fees	£24,680.00
Brodies	Employment Advice	£3,435.60
Brodies	Legal support	£22,250.80
Burness Paull	Legal support	£29,055.80
Faculty Services	Legal support	£2,100.00
Julie Murphy	Financial support	£2,000.00
Scottish Government	Procurement Advice - Shared Service	£2,766.00
Worknest	Employment Law Support Services	£7,112.70
Worknest	HR Consultancy Ad-hoc	£984.00
Wbg	Internal audit fees	£8,766.00

Members or employees who received remuneration in excess of £150,000

None

Payments with a value in excess of £25,000

Individual payments in excess of £25,000

Payee	Description	Total
Computer Application Services Ltd	Case Management software & licences	£40,948.74

Multiple payments - cumulative total exceeds £25,000; individual payments not exceeding £25,000

Payee	Description	Total
Brodies	Legal Consultancy & Employment	£25,686.40
Burness Paull	Legal Consultancy	£29,055.80
Anderson Strathern	Legal Consultancy	£56,056.80
Thorntons (on behalf of Landlord)	Office Rent	£57,076.15
Microsys	IT Support, Equipment & Software	£48,360.23

PR Expenditure - Explanatory Note

The Scottish Government's guidance for public bodies on the duties to publish information under the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 advises that under the heading "Public Relations", the costs of the following types of activities should include (for example): marketing, PR campaigns, media relations, marketing research and evaluation, branding and design, promotional events, external events, conferences and exhibitions, corporate communications, sponsorship, publications and printing, digital communications, advertising and media planning.

The Scottish Information Commissioner has statutory duties to promote:

- good practice to public authorities
- information about FOI rights to the public

The Commissioner also has a statutory duty to lay an annual report before Parliament. The above PR expenditure was incurred in the delivery of those statutory duties, through activities in the operational plan 2025-26. For example, the Commissioner and staff:

- provide presentations to public authorities and civil society organisations,
- circulate information about new developments in FOI
- lay an annual report
- organise and support FOI conferences
- maintain and update a website
- issue new guidance

For more information contact:

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