



Making an application to the Scottish Information Commissioner

Application form

Use this form if you are unhappy with the way a Scottish public authority handled your request for information and you would like the Scottish Information Commissioner to investigate. You do not have to use this form but, if you do, it will help to make sure you provide all of the information the Commissioner needs to investigate your case quickly. If you don't use the form, your appeal must be in a format that can be kept for future use, for example, by email or post or in an audio or video recording. It may still be helpful to follow this form to ensure you include everything you need to.

Some important points to note before you start

Can you answer **YES** to **all** of the following questions?

1. Did you ask the authority for information?
2. Did you ask the authority to review the way it handled your request, either because:
 - a. you were unhappy with the response, or
 - b. the authority did not respond?
3. Did you receive a response to your review request that you are not happy with?
OR Did you wait for 20 days but did not get a response to your review request?

If you answered **NO** to **any** of these questions it may be too soon to make an application to the Commissioner. Help is available on our website at www.ItsPublicKnowledge.info/YourRights. Alternatively, email us at enquiries@ItsPublicKnowledge.info, or call us on **01334 464610**.

What you will need to help you complete the form

Copies of:

- Your information request to the authority
- The authority's response to your information request (if you received one)
- Your request for a review to the authority
- The authority's response to your review request (if you received one)

About You

This section asks for information about you. It is important you read this guidance as without the information we will not be able to investigate your application.

Important points:

- You **must** give your full name and a contact address - email or postal. If you used a pseudonym when you made your information request (e.g. "Mickey Mouse"), we will not be able to investigate. For more information, see www.ItsPublicKnowledge.info/FAQs.
- If you made the request on behalf of someone else, it is important you give us their name.

Title: Mr

Forename: Peter

Surname: Gregson

Postal address: 27 Riversdale Grove, Edinburgh, EH12 5QS

Email address: peter.n.gregson@outlook.com

Phone number: 0758 472 2191

Are you making this application on behalf of someone else? (Yes or No) No

If yes, what is their **full name**?

What is your preferred method of contact? (Email, phone or post) email

Do you have any particular requirements? no

For example, communication in an **alternative format**. If yes, please specify or [contact us](#).

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About your information request and your request for review

Make sure you have read the guidance at the start of this form.

Name of authority you made your request to: City of Edinburgh Council

Date you made your request for information: 31st March 2022

Did the authority respond? (Yes or No) Yes

Date of the authority's response: (if any) 29th April 2022

Date of your review request to the authority: 16th May 2022

Why did you ask the authority for a review?

(Give a brief summary - the available space will increase as you type)

Q1a. I had asked why I was not informed of the change in plans (that my petition to get Edinburgh twinned with Gaza City had not been included in the Policy Committee agenda), contrary to written promises that my petition was to go before Committee in June 2020. The Council gave an unsatisfactory reply.

Q1b. I had asked who authorised the removal of my petition from the Council website and why. The Council gave an unsatisfactory reply.

Q2a. I had asked who from the Israeli Authorities approached Edinburgh Council on the 28th March, indicating that to discuss my petition, even negatively, would count as support for Hamas and consequent criminal proceedings against Councillors. The Council declared that it had not been approached by the Israeli authorities. This is untrue: I presented evidence of a screenshot of the text sent to me by my ward councillor Frank Ross on the 28th March 2022, which originated from the City Leader, Cllr Adam McVey. It states "The Israeli authorities have challenged any consideration of the matter, even to negatively consider, as unlawful on grounds it "could" support Hamas- a listed terrorist organisation. It's ridiculous conjecture and the Tories were planning to move that position too- which wouldn't have been helpful in settling any community relevant to these issues. External legal had no expertise on that part of law (fairly niche) so they're having to check."

Q2b. I had noted that the same threat had been made by UKLFI some three days prior, which the Council Legal Team had clearly digested and dismissed, (possibly thanks to the material I had submitted); I therefore asked what was said by the Israeli Authorities that changed the Council's view regarding the legal situation. The Council declared that it had not been approached by the Israeli authorities. This was untrue (see Q2a above).

Q3a. I had asked why the Council had not provided me (or the public) with the reasons why the report was pulled from the Policy Committee agenda of the 29th March, beyond the scant ' full consideration to legal matters' comment that had been given out for the past three days. The Council gave an unsatisfactory response, claiming claim exemption under section 25 of the Act.

Q3b. I had asked if the Council could indicate if Israel has forbidden them from mentioning its name in relation to the cancellation of my hearing- or had the Chief Executive/Head of Legal yet again over-ridden the stated intentions of the man elected to lead our city. The Council declared that it had not been approached by the Israeli authorities. This was untrue (see Q2a above).

A full history of my FOI request and all correspondence is available on the Internet at this address: https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/information_relating_to_twinning

Did the authority carry out a review and respond to you? (Yes or No) No

Date of the authority's response: There has been no response to my request for an internal review.

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About your application

You must say why you are unhappy with the way the authority responded to your request for review. For example, you might be unhappy because:

- the authority did not carry out a review
- you do not agree that an exemption applies
- you think it would be in the public interest for the information to be disclosed
- the authority said it does not hold the information (or doesn't hold more information than it has already given you), but you disagree
- the authority said it would cost too much to respond to your request or has issued you with a fees notice
- the authority has refused to respond to your request because it believes it is vexatious or repeated.

There may be other reasons why you are unhappy, but remember that the Commissioner can only investigate issues about freedom of information law. Be clear, precise and concise. Generally, you do not need to explain why you needed the information. If we do not understand what you tell us, or we think we need more information to start our investigation, we will contact you.

We will send a copy of this form to the public authority. Let us know if there is anything in this form that you do not want us to tell the public authority (for example, your home address). We will take the information out of the form before sending it to the public authority, if we can.

Why are you unhappy with the way the authority responded to your request for review?

(Give a clear explanation - the available space will increase as you type.)

Four of the above reasons apply:

- the Council did not carry out a review
- I do not agree that an exemption applies
- I think it would be in the public interest for the information to be disclosed
- the Council said it does not hold the information (or doesn't hold more information than it has already given me), but I disagree

Date application sent to Commissioner: 16th June 2022

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Sending us your application

You must send us copies of the documents listed as 1-4 below. If you did not keep copies of your information and review requests, ask the authority to send them to you before you send us this form.

You do NOT need to send us any other documents at this point. We will contact you if we need more information. If you are unsure about what to do, [contact us](#) for advice.

Please check you have sent us everything and confirm below which documents are enclosed.

- 1. Your request for information to the authority**
- 2. The authority's response to your request (if you received one)**
- 3. Your request for review to the authority**
- 4. The authority's response to your request for review (if you received one)**

Send your form and documents to the Scottish Information Commissioner by one of the following methods:

Email: enquiries@ItsPublicKnowledge.info

Post: Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS

Remember, help is available on our website at www.ItsPublicKnowledge.info/YourRights. Alternatively, email us at enquiries@ItsPublicKnowledge.info, or call us on **01334 464610**.

Read our privacy notice to find out how we use any personal information you give us in your application form: www.ItsPublicKnowledge.info/Privacy.