

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 07 February 2012 09:36  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FOI Reply 378

[REDACTED]

**FOI Request 378**

Thank you for your email sent to the Scotland Office 20 January on 2012.

You asked for the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

*The number of civil servants in your department who also serve as local councillors*

*A breakdown of this figure in terms of whether they serve as (a) Conservative councillors (b) Labour councillors (c) Liberal Democrat councillors or (d) councillors representing other parties*

The Scotland Office has completed its search for information.

There are no staff in the Scotland Office who also serve as local councillors.

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]  
Scotland Office

[REDACTED]  
1 Melville Crescent  
Edinburgh  
EH3 7HW

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 20 January 2012 16:07  
Subject: Website enquiry

Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Comments: Dear Sir / Madam

I wish to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

I would like to know:

- ❖ The number of civil servants in your department who also serve as local councillors
  - ❖ A breakdown of this figure in terms of whether they serve as (a) Conservative councillors (b) Labour councillors (c) Liberal Democrat councillors or (d) councillors representing other parties
- I would like to receive electronic versions of this information at this email address:

[REDACTED]  
Public interest

There is a strong public interest case for releasing this information, which centres on the importance of the political impartiality of the civil service and the consequent need for absolute transparency in such matters.

I do not believe the documentation I have requested should fulfil any of the requirements for an exemption from the Freedom of Information Act. However, if parts of the documentation do fulfil any of these requirements for an exemption, I request that you redact the relevant sections and send the remainder of the information.

I would like to ask that any refusal to provide the information requested should be accompanied with advice on how my request could be modified so as to be granted, in accordance with your duty to provide advice and assistance.

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Thank you for your email which was received today.

The Scotland Office is a UK Government department therefore your request is being considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, rather than the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

01/03/2012

Your email will be passed to the most appropriate person within the Scotland Office who will respond within 20 working days of the date of this email.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides a number of exemptions, some of which require consideration of the public interest test. If you have requested information that is covered by such an exemption the Scotland Office is permitted to take more than 20 working days to respond. In these circumstances, we will write to advise you when you can expect to receive a response.

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