

When considering your request it has been found that some sections of the information identified does not fall in scope of your request and therefore has been removed.

Please find below the exceptions applied to relevant information in your request:

- Under Regulation 6(1)(b) of the EIRs, we do not have to give you information which is already publicly available and easily accessible to you in another form or format. If, however, you do not have internet access to obtain this information from the website(s) listed, then please contact me again and I will send you a paper copy.

You can find some of the information you have requested here:

- [Analysis of Consultation Responses for the Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan](#)
- Some information has been withheld under regulation 10(4)(e) (internal communication). This exception is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exception.

We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exception. We recognise that there is some public interest in releasing the information as part of an open, transparent and accountable government. However, this is outweighed by the greater public interest in allowing Scottish Government officials and ministers a private space to share free and frank views for the purpose of deliberation of any given policy.

- Some information has been withheld under regulation 10(5)(f) (Third Party Interests). This exception is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exception.

We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exception. We recognise that there is some public interest in releasing the information as part of an open, transparent and accountable government. However, this is outweighed by the greater public interest in allowing external organisations the ability to engage with the Scottish Government with the strict understanding that their correspondence is held in confidence unless otherwise agreed.

- Additionally, information has been redacted from the documents disclosed under Regulation 11 – Personal Data, as it contains personal information and disclosing it would contravene the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and in Section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018.

This exception is not subject to the 'public interest test'.