

Policy on Speaking Engagements

Scottish Information Commissioner



Scottish Information
Commissioner

SIC Policy on Speaking Engagements

Introduction

1. The Scottish Information Commissioner is responsible for promoting and enforcing rights to access information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) and the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIRs).
2. The Commissioner's office receives many invitations to make presentations at a wide range of events. We would, ideally, like to be able to participate in all of the events to which we're invited, but sometimes we have to decline. This can be due to other pre-existing commitments, but we also have to make a decision about the best use of our organisation's resources. This note explains how we prioritise our involvement.

Invitations from the public

3. For the purposes of this policy 'the public' is any person or organisation not a Scottish public authority or a commercial organisation. The public includes community and voluntary organisations, charities, MSPs and Councillors.
4. We aim to make the best use of our resources to promote access to information rights to people who use, or intend to use, them. Our aim is to promote rights and help the public make the best use of those rights.
5. We particularly welcome invitations to speak at events involving members of community and voluntary organisations, especially where there are large numbers of attendees or many organisations present.
6. We do not charge and generally meet our own travel costs. We are happy to attend events outside office hours.

Invitations from public authorities

7. When considering invitations from public authorities we aim to reach as wide an audience as possible. We actively seek opportunities to participate in events that will enable us to inform authorities about their duties and responsibilities, and which promote and share good practice.
8. We do not charge for these events, but may ask for a contribution to travel expenses.

Invitations from commercial organisations

9. When we consider invitations from commercial organisations (e.g., law firms, human resource consultants and records management specialists) we apply similar principles as we do to public authorities in terms of promoting and sharing good practice.
10. We do not charge for these events, but may ask for a contribution to travel expenses.

Invitations from international organisations / bodies

11. When considering invitations from organisations and groups outwith Scotland, we seek to participate in opportunities which will contribute to Scotland being respected as a world-

leader in openness and transparency. This will be balanced with other work areas and available capacity as necessary, and remote attendance may be explored as an alternative to attendance in person.

12. We do not charge for these events, but may ask for a contribution to travel and accommodation expenses.

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