HEADQUARTERS
One Lochside
1 Lochside Avenue
Edinburgh
EH12 9DJ

Our Ref: HQ26244
By email:

21 October 2026

Dear

Thank you for your request dated 24 September 2026 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

For reference, you requested:

For the most recent financial year for which complete data are available, please provide:

RFI 1: A list of each religion, faith, or belief group for which the SPS employs, contracts, or otherwise remunerates a chaplain or faith representative.

RFI 2: The number of chaplains or faith representatives associated with each group.

RFI 3: The total annual amount paid by the SPS for each group, including salary, fees, sessional payments, allowances, expenses, or any other remuneration.

RFI 4: Where chaplains are SPS employees, their pay band, grade, or salary range, broken down by religion, faith, or belief group where possible.

RFI 5: Where chaplains are engaged on a contractual, sessional, voluntary-with-expenses, or other basis, the applicable payment rate or total amount paid, broken down by religion, faith, or belief group.

We have now completed our search for the information you requested.

RFI 1 Response: During financial year 2025–26, SPS employed chaplains representing the following faith groups:

- Christian – Reformed
- Christian – Roman Catholic
- Muslim

Where SPS is unable to meet a particular faith requirement through an SPS-employed chaplain, an appropriate external faith provider may be identified through the Chaplaincy Team to deliver essential religious services.

Unfortunately, under section 17(1) of FOISA, I must advise that SPS does not hold a recorded breakdown of external faith providers by religion, faith or belief group.

RFI 2 Response: The table below provides the headcount and full-time equivalent figure for SPS-employed chaplains by faith group during financial year 2025–26.

Faith	Headcount	FTE
Christian - Roman Catholic	20	8.2
Christian - Reformed	24	16.0
Muslim	3	2.4
Grand Total	**47**	**26.6**

Unfortunately, under section 17(1) of FOISA, I must advise that SPS does not hold the number of external faith providers broken down by religion, faith, or belief group.

RFI 3 Response: The table below provides the gross salary costs for SPS-employed chaplains by faith group for financial year 2025–26.

Faith	Gross Salary Costs*
Christian - Roman Catholic	£447,617
Christian - Reformed	£878,313
Muslim	£132,304
Grand Total	**£1,458,234**

*The figures represent the gross annual salary payments made during financial year 2025-26 and exclude employer National Insurance and pension contributions.

In addition to salary costs, total Chaplaincy-related expenses during financial year 2025–26 amounted to £11,558.49.

Unfortunately, under section 17(1) of FOISA, I must advise that SPS does not hold a breakdown of these expenses by religion, faith or belief group. The expenses are recorded only as an overall Chaplaincy total.

RFI 4 Response: All SPS-employed chaplains are appointed at Pay Band F. The applicable pay rates for financial year 2025–26 were:

	Pay Point 1	Pay Point 2	Pay Point 3	Pay Point 4
FY 2025-26	N/A	£52,431	£53,702	£55,966

As all SPS-employed chaplains are appointed at the same pay band, there is no separate pay band or salary range based on religion, faith or belief group.

RFI 5 Response: External Faith Providers receive a flat fee of £55 per visit, in addition to travel expenses where applicable.

The total amount paid to External Faith Providers during financial year 2025-26 was £29,301.53.

Unfortunately, under section 17(1) of FOISA, I must advise that SPS does not hold these payments broken down by religion, faith or belief group.

This concludes our response to your request.

If you are unhappy with this response to your request, you may ask us to conduct an internal review, by writing to The Chief Executive, One Lochside, 1 Lochside Avenue, Edinburgh, EH12 9DJ. Your request should explain why you wish a review to be conducted and should be made within forty working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within twenty working days of receipt. If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Adviser