

Freedom of Information Officer
foi@environmentalstandards.scot
0808 1964000

13 March 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 7 March 2025 to Environmental Standards Scotland (ESS) requesting information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA). The information you have requested is as follows:

1. How many members of staff are currently employed by ESS?
2. How many ESS staff members have formal qualifications to practice law (i.e. staff who are qualified as solicitors, barristers, advocates or have other similar professional legal qualifications from outwith the UK). Please include members of staff who have any relevant qualifications which have expired or who are non-practising.

Response

1. As at the date of your request, ESS has 26 FTE staff.
2. There is currently one Scottish-qualified solicitor within ESS. In addition, one member of staff holds a Scottish LLB (Hons) Degree. Although broader than the scope of your request we would also provide the following further information for context and completeness.

Environmental Standards Scotland Enquiries

enquiries@environmentalstandards.scot

Thistle House, 91 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5HD
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External solicitors provide full-service legal support, as required, through a Legal Services Framework. This contract is currently held by Harper Macleod LLP. ESS also has a contract with AAB to provide HR management support services.

ESS can instruct Counsel as required for specialist legal advice and Opinions (and should representation in the Court of Session be required).

In January 2025 the recruitment of an additional qualified solicitor was approved. This is currently being finalised and is due to be advertised in the coming weeks.

We consider this to be a full disclosure of the information you requested.

Right to seek a review


While we believe we have complied with your information request in full, if you are unhappy with this response to your request under FOISA, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response by writing to:

Chief Executive Officer
Environmental Standards Scotland
Thistle House
91 Haymarket Terrace Edinburgh
EH12 5HD
Email foi@environmentalstandards.scot

Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response and should be made within 40 working days from the date when you received this letter.

We will issue a full response to your request for review within 20 working days of receiving it.

Yours sincerely


Freedom of Information Officer
Environmental Standards Scotland

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