

Request:	Edinburgh Leisure Questions
Ref:	ELIR00430
Received:	11.02.25
Responded:	20.02.25

Request

Ahead of the EL report to the Culture and Communities Committee, I would like to request the following information:

1. EL has previously said that it would cost around 2k to open the toilets at Portobello Swim Centre. Could I please ask how this was worked out?

2. Is EL

(i) Currently paying the Real Living Wage?

(ii) Planning to pay the RLW in FY 25/26?

Thanks

Response

Legislation:	Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002
Category of response:	Partial Release of Information
Exemptions applied:	FOISA Section 17

Your request has been processed under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide you with some of the information requested as it is not held by Edinburgh Leisure.

Question 1: EL has previously said that it would cost around 2k to open the toilets at Portobello Swim Centre. Could I please ask how this was worked out?

Withheld under Section 17 Information Not Held

Edinburgh Leisure does not hold the information requested.

We have completed our searches for information relating to the toilets at Portobello Swim Centre. There are no returns specific to the cost to provide public access. It has been discussed, however not recorded, and the costs were estimated and related to additional staffing (cleaning and managing access). All those directly involved have left EL.

We can however provide the following information from discussions:

Because of the layout of Portobello i.e. 2 entrance doors and the toilets being located upstairs and the opening hours we would need more than 1 person. The venue requires staff to control access and staff upstairs to supervise use / clean the toilets.

The £2k was based on an estimated requirement of circa 160 hours per week at £9.50 per hour plus on costs (rate when calculated in 2021).

£9.50 per hour was our 2021 rate. Based on £12 per hour, the weekly cost would increase to £2750 per week. And after April this could increase to anything between £2830-£2930 per week.

Question 2: Is EL

(i) Currently paying the Real Living Wage?

Yes

(ii) Planning to pay the RLW in FY 25/26?

Withheld under Section 17 Information Not Held

Edinburgh Leisure does not hold the information requested as the question is asking about a future intention (and is subject to many further discussions, negotiations and formal processes that are yet to happen), as such it is not held information.

There has been verbal discussion about our desire to pay RLW - but no formal minutes. We don't start formal discussion until our Board meeting (which this year is in March) - which will be subject to funding confirmation from City of Edinburgh Council in late February. There is no written note of our intention this year.

We have reviewed the Board papers for February 2024 - relating to the 2024/25 pay award. There is a section in there (copied below), that covers the approach

taken last year. This confirms that EL *want* to pay RLW, but this is annually subject to affordability. We will be able to answer the question in relation to 2025/26 after March 2025.

From Board report (B agenda, so not in public domain) in February 2024:

The Board are aware of the dialogue that has taken place in various Council forums regarding EL and the RLW and the message that has been emphasised throughout these discussions is we (EL) want to pay the RLW but require additional funding from CEC in order to do so. The proposed increase in our funding, which includes the £2.2M to enable us to pay the Real Living Wage, will be considered as part of the Council's 2024/-25 budget deliberations on 22nd February, and we should have a decision by the time of the Board meeting.

It may be beneficial contacting Jen Holland our Chief Executive or Karen Scott our Head of People directly and having private dialogue about that question.

Karen Scott

Director of People

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www.edinburghleisure.co.uk

Jen Holland

Chief Executive

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Please note that this letter constitutes a formal notice under section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Refusal Notice

Section 16 of FOI(S)A requires us to complete a refusal notice when we are not providing information requested. The details we are required to include in this refusal notice are set out below.

Information which is the subject of the request and is not held

Exemption(s)	Section 17 - Information Not Held
Why exemption(s) applies	Unfortunately, we are unable to provide you with the information requested in the question 1 & 2(ii) as it is not held by Edinburgh Leisure.
Public Interest (where relevant)	As the information requested is not held by Edinburgh Leisure, we are unable to conduct a public interest test.

Edinburgh Leisure Head Office
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EH7 6AE
Email: foi@edinburghleisure.co.uk
Edinburghleisure.co.uk

Registered Scottish Charity No: SC027450
VAT Reg: 703 762 349 Company Reg: 179259

Edinburgh Leisure
The Biggest Club in Town

This concludes your request **ELIR00430**.

Please treat this as a Refusal under Section 17 and notice in accordance with Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

If you are unhappy with this response to your request, or otherwise unhappy with how we dealt with your request you have the right to request a review from us under Section 21 of FOISA by writing to foi@edinburghleisure.co.uk

Your request should explain why you wish a review to be carried out and should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the review, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

- **Email** to: enquiries@foi.scot
- **Post** to: Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Rd, St Andrews, KY16 9DS

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