

Request:	FOI Golf Courses
Ref:	ELIR00432
Received:	12.03.25
Responded:	25.03.25

Request

I would like to request the following information under Freedom of information request:

- 1. A breakdown of income vs expenditure for each of the Golf courses for the past 5 years.*
- 2. The maintenance schedule/ Schedule of works for each of the golf courses for the past 5 years, which states what work will be undertaken on the course e.g. work to enhance tees, installation of permanent mats, bunker work, drainage etc. as part of this I would also like correspondence between golf manager/ head green keepers if work has been completed or if work has been postponed including reason why. If this could be broken down in to summer/ winter work to be undertaken that would be advantageous.*
- 3. I would like the projected forecast of spend on schedule of works to improve Silverknowes golf course for 2025-26 with list of works planning under maintenance/ improvement.*
- 4. I would like any correspondence with Scottish Golf and Edinburgh Leisure regarding changes to temporary course layout at Silverknowes for handicap/ course indexes being looked at in the past 4 years.
<https://www.scottishgolf.org/course-rating>*
- 5. I would like a breakdown of the number of golf permit holders who during 2024 only played 1 course using their permit. E.g. Only played Silverknowes. only Braid etc. for each course under EL management.*

Information requested by email.

Response

Legislation:	Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002
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Category of response:	Partial Release of Information
Exemptions applied:	FOISA Section 17 Information Not Held FOISA Section 33(1)(b) Commercial Sensitivity FOISA Section 38(1)(b) Personal Information

Unfortunately, Edinburgh Leisure is only able to meet part of your request; this information is released to you now in the format requested.

Question 1: Release of Information

Question 1: A breakdown of income vs expenditure for each of the Golf courses for the past 5 years.

Response:	Release of Information
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We publish usage, income & expenditure figures for each golf course in our FOI section of the web in our Board Reports. Our Board Reports ‘Financial & Usage Review’ details income and expenditure for a given time-period in Appendix 2 Detailed Site Analysis – 12 Months to March 20YY.

You can access current Board Reports on our website [here](#).

We have provided copies of the Detailed Site Analysis Appendix 2 in the ‘**26 Year performance Report – Golf**’ excel file which shows the 12 months to March usage and income. The **Board Reports Tab** shows the detailed site analysis for income and usage for every venue for the 12-month period for the years requested.

Please note information within 26 Year performance Report – Golf balance to the board reports provided except 2020-21 which varies due to furlough (transferred to the department after the board report pulled).

Also enclosed are copies of the end of year Board Reports for 2024, 2023, 2022 and 2021 which were published on our website.

Documents Provided to Requester

- 2024 May_Redacted – shows 12 months to March 2024
- 2023 May 13 (for web)_Redacted – shows 12 months to March 2023
- 2022 May – shows 12 months to March 2022
- 2021 May – shows 12 months to March 2021
- 26 Year performance Report – Golf – shows Detailed Site Analysis – 12 Months to March 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024.

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

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Please note our Board Reports are usually redacted of Personal Information and exemption Section 38(1)(b) applied redacting personal data of any individual under Director level. We also apply Section 33(1)(b) Commercial Interests to some of the information contained within the reports.

The Freedom of information (Scotland) Act 2002 allows for the application of exemptions, and I have applied the following exemptions to some of the information requested.

- Section 33(1)(b) Commercial Interests
- Section 17 Information Not Held

Question 2: Release of Information & Withheld under Section 17

Question 2:

- i. *The maintenance schedule/ Schedule of works for each of the golf courses for the past 5 years, which states what work will be undertaken on the course e.g. work to enhance tees, installation of permanents mats, bunker work, drainage etc.*
- ii. *as part of this I would also like correspondence between golf manager/ head green keepers if work has been completed or if work has been postponed including reason why. If this could be broken down in to summer/ winter work to be undertaken that would be advantageous.*

Response:

- i. **Release of Information**
- ii. **Withheld under Section 17 Information Not Held**

2 i.

Annual maintenance regime is carried out at all courses is as follows:

Spring

Application of Lawn sand to Greens

Greens aerated- mini cored/ tined/scarified

Greens seeded and top dressed

Tees Aerated, Seeded and top dressed

Application of Start-up fertiliser to greens

Irrigation System Start-up

Main season

Greens Nutritional Program (applications of fertilisers, wetting agents, liquid seaweed, chelated iron, plant sugars and other nutrients)

Greens verti-cut and top-dressed periodically
Greens cut daily
Tees cut twice per week
Aprons cut twice per week
Fairways cut twice per week
Rough areas cut a minimum of once per week
Bunkers raked daily
Holes changed twice per week
Tee markers moved daily
Greens irrigated as needed
Bunker faces cut weekly
Tees devoted/seeded (wear areas)
Litter picking
Weekly Machinery maintenance
Weekly cleaning of yard/staff areas

Autumn/Winter

Irrigation System Close Down
Greens aerated- mini cored/tined
Greens Verti- drained
Application of Autumn/Winter fertiliser to Greens
Edging Bunkers

Additional works in the past 5 years at SKGC

Shaping and turfing of 7th greenside bunker
Cleared out drain outlets at 15th & 12th
Build winter tees at 8th & 15th
Remove bunker 13th fairway
Install drainage in 12th greenside bunker
Build winter tee at 2nd
Strip, Level and returf 17th tee
Dig out and regrade soakaway drainage on 15th green
Clear & resurface path to 13th tee
Turf wear areas around bunkers

Re-instate bunker on 13th fairway

Building Winter tees at 6th & 7th

Dig out bunker faces on 3rd, 11th, 16th

Dig out soakaway drainage to relieve flooding on 3rd green

Open drains on greenside bunkers at 4th and 15th and build up bunker base to assist drainage

Re-grade sand in bunkers

Cleared/resurface path to 11th tee

Edge Bunkers

Drainage installations

Re-shaping of bunkers

Tee levelling/extending

Tree feathering

Installation of pop-u sprinklers to 18th Green

Installation of pop-up sprinklers to 16th Green

Fix drainage issue at 15th outlet, clear further drains through to 12th and install inspection chamber

Repairs to existing drainage system on 9th

Repair burst mains water supply

2 ii.

The information that you asked for regarding question 2 ii. above will not be released. Under the terms of the Act, a request for information can be refused where one or more exemptions listed in the legislation apply.

In this instance, Edinburgh Leisure is applying the following exemption to the information that you have requested: **S17 Information Not Held.**

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide you with the information requested in question 2 ii. above as it is not held by Edinburgh Leisure.

There has been no email or written correspondence between golf manager/ head green keepers due to their offices being based at Silverknowes, they have historically not used email for comms on course matters as the head grounds keeper is on site and any communications have been done face to face, 1-2-1's and briefings. Briefing sheets have not been kept.

Refusal Notice

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

Edinburgh Leisure Head Office
Meadowbank Sports Centre
London Road
Edinburgh
EH7 6AE

Email: foi@edinburghleisure.co.uk
Edinburghleisure.co.uk

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



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

Exemption(s)	Section 17 - Information Not Held
Why exemption(s) applies	<p>Unfortunately, we are unable to provide you with the information requested in question 2 II. above as it is not held by Edinburgh Leisure.</p> <p>There has been no email or written correspondence between golf manager/ head green keepers due to their offices being based at Silverknowes, they have historically not used email for comms on course matters as the head grounds keeper is on site and any communications have been done face to face, 1-2-1's and briefings. Briefing sheets have not been kept.</p>
Public Interest (where relevant)	As the information requested is not held by Edinburgh Leisure, we are unable to conduct a public interest test.

Please note that this letter constitutes a formal refusal under Section 17 Information Not Held and notice in accordance with section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Please see Appendix 5 for our Refusal Notice.

Question 3: Withheld under Section 33(1)(b)

<i>Question 3: I would like the projected forecast of spend on schedule of works to improve Silverknowes golf course for 2025-26 with list of works planning under maintenance/ improvement.</i>	
Response:	Withheld under Section 33(1)(b) Commercial Interests

The information that you asked for regarding question 3 above will not be released. Under the terms of the Act, a request for information can be refused where one or more exemptions listed in the legislation apply.

In this instance, Edinburgh Leisure is applying the following exemption to the information that you have requested: **S33 (1) (b) Commercial Interests.**

Information withheld as we are likely going to tender for any planned works, we would not be able to provide a forecast of spend as this could give contractors information that we would not want to disclose during the tendering process.

Please note that this letter constitutes a formal refusal notice under section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Public interest arguments provided to requester.

Question 4: Withheld under Section 17

*Question 4: I would like any correspondence with Scottish Golf and Edinburgh Leisure regarding changes to temporary course layout at Silverknowes for handicap/ course indexes being looked at in the past 4 years.
<https://www.scottishgolf.org/course-rating>*

Response:

Withheld under Section 17 Information Not Held

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide you with the information requested in question 4 above as it is not held by Edinburgh Leisure.

There has been no correspondence with Scottish Golf regarding winter course layout.

Edinburgh Leisure Golf Club & Silverknowes G.C have never approached us regarding setting a winter course / stroke index up.

As far as I am aware you need to have set distance markers (Permanent Measured Teeing areas) to determine lengths of holes. As we have no winter set teeing areas and use areas on the fairways which can vary greatly in length, we cannot have a set measured course. All our courses have some very wet areas which sometimes means we must close some holes, move tee markers halfway up fairways or open a composite course with a mixture of holes. Any pre-set course would not be able to be used for handicapping or competition purposes.

Refusal Notice

Section 16 of FOI(S)A requires us to complete a refusal notice when we are not providing information which is otherwise accessible. 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	<p>Unfortunately, we are unable to provide you with the information requested in question 4 above as it is not held by Edinburgh Leisure.</p> <p>There has been no correspondence with Scottish Golf regarding winter course layout.</p> <p>Edinburgh Leisure Golf Club & Silverknowes G.C have never approached us regarding setting a winter course / stroke index up.</p>

Public Interest (where relevant)	As the information requested is not held by Edinburgh Leisure, we are unable to conduct a public interest test.
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Question 5: Release of Information

Question 5: I would like a breakdown of the number of golf permit holders who during 2024 only played 1 course using their permit. E.g. Only played Silverknowes. only Braid etc. for each course under EL management.

Response:	Release of Information
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There are a total of 2147 unique Direct Debit (DD) members that paid for a Golf membership DD in March 2025.

The usage figures are from April 2024 until 13th March 2024.

Out of 2147 members 2090 members had used at least one of our Golf sites during the time period, while the rest had no usage.

Out of 2090 members that used, 577 members had used only 1 site

Following are the sites and number of members that used only that site:

Braids Hills Golf Course	69 Members
Carrick Knowe Golf Course	122 Members
Craigentinny Golf Course	113 Members
Portobello Golf Course	61 Members
Silverknowes Golf Course	175 Members
Wee Braids Golf Course	37 Members

This concludes your request **ELIR00432**.

Please note that this letter constitutes a formal refusal under Section 17 Information Not Held 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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