

Scottish Fiscal Commission
Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010
Duties to Publish Information
Report for the year ended 31 March 2018

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1. Introduction

This document details the information Scottish Fiscal Commission is required to publish as prescribed in the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010.

It has been compiled with reference to the guidance issued by Scottish Government¹. All amounts stated include VAT where applicable.

This publications covers the Commission's first year's operation as a statutory body so there are no comparable figures for the previous year.

Further information on the work of Scottish Fiscal Commission can be found on its website², in particular in the following documents:

Corporate Plan 2018-2020³

Business Plan 2019-20⁴

Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2018⁵

Should you require further information in relation to the activities or operations of the Scottish Fiscal Commission, please contact the Commission at:

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¹ www.gov.scot/publications/duties-on-public-bodies-to-provide-information-guidance/

² Scottish Fiscal Commission www.fiscalcommission.scot

³ Scottish Fiscal Commission Corporate Plan 2018-2020 www.fiscalcommission.scot/about-us/corporate-governance/corporate-governance/corporate-plan-2018-20

⁴ Scottish Fiscal Commission Business Plan 2019-20 www.fiscalcommission.scot/about-us/corporate-governance/corporate-governance/scottish-fiscal-commission-business-plan-2019-20/

⁵ Scottish Fiscal Commission Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2018 www.fiscalcommission.scot/about-us/corporate-governance/corporate-governance/scottish-fiscal-commission-annual-report-and-accounts-for-the-year-ended-31-march-2018

2. Expenditure Information

Public Relations

This amount is stated including VAT and revenue costs for stakeholder engagement events as well as an estimate of printing in-house a limited number of copies of Scotland's Economic and Fiscal Forecast Reports and the associated Summary Report. It also includes the cost of providing communications expertise for part of the year as a consultancy service before the appointment of a Media and Engagement Officer in April 2018.

Amount for 2017-18: £17,713

Overseas Travel

In 2017-18, Scottish Fiscal Commission did not spend any money on overseas travel.

Amount for 2017-18: £0

Hospitality and Entertainment

In 2017-18, Scottish Fiscal Commission has not provided any:

- a) gifts to any employee or third party; or
- b) invitations to public, cultural or sporting events to any employee or third party.

The hospitality and entertainment costs incurred by Scottish Fiscal Commission include refreshments and catering at meetings with stakeholders.

Amount for 2017-18: £400

External Consultancy

This amount is stated inclusive of VAT. This includes expert review of and advice on our models. The costs of external Communications expertise provided as a consultancy have been included in the amount for Public Relations and are not included here.

Amount for 2017-18: £16,360

Payments in excess of £25,000

In 2017-18, the Scottish Fiscal Commission made no payments which fall within the reporting definition (this does not include remuneration paid to Commissioners or Commission staff). However for transparency we report the following payments:

Non-cash payments:

Audit Scotland - £29,800 for the cost of auditing the Commission.

Payments for the same services totalling more than £25,000 per annum
Scottish Government - £64,119 for the Memorandum of Terms of Occupation for Governor's House which included non-domestic rates and maintenance/service charges, and which was paid over five payments.

3. Remuneration

Scottish Fiscal Commission had no staff members who received remuneration in excess of £150,000 during 2017-18.

No member of Scottish Fiscal Commission staff received a bonus or performance related payment in 2017-18.

4. Steps to Promote Sustainable Economic Growth

The role of the Scottish Fiscal Commission is to produce independent forecasts of Scotland's:

- revenue from fully devolved taxes and Non-savings Non-dividend income tax receipts;
- devolved social security expenditure;
- Onshore Gross Domestic Product (GDP); and
- reports on the Scottish Government's borrowing projections.

The main role of the Commission is therefore to produce forecasts which are robust and based on the best information available at the time of production to allow proper scrutiny of the Scottish Government's Budget and to support informed decision making by the Scottish Government.

By adding to fiscal transparency we assist good governance that in turn supports economic growth.

5. Steps to Improve Efficiency, Effectiveness and Economy

This is the Scottish Fiscal Commission's first full year of operation, so our focus has been to establish efficient, effective and economic systems and procedures. Given the nature of our work, our largest costs are staffing costs.

In 2017-18 these staffing costs amounted to £1,135,000 of our net operating costs of £1,484,000. Good progress was made in recruiting and filling all vacancies by the end of the financial year.

In line with the guidance that public bodies should actively explore and implement as appropriate all opportunities for sharing the provision of back office and front line functions, the Scottish Fiscal Commission make use of a range of shared service agreements with the Scottish Government to achieve efficiency and economy. These cover the following areas:

- Human Resources and payroll;
- IT;
- Accommodation;
- Finance and Accountancy, including access to the Scottish Governments Enterprise Accountancy System, ePC card and EASEbuy purchasing and payment system;
- Procurement; and
- Legal services.

In relation to procurement, the Commission undertakes limited levels of procurement activity, making use of call of contracts where possible, and using shared service agreement to access procurement expertise when required.

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