

Subject: Request for information regarding the costs for Scotland's Census 2011 and 2022.

FOI reference: 202200291286

Date received: 29 March 2022

Date responded: 28 April 2022

Information requested:

Request for an answer to the following questions:

1. How much in total has the Scottish Census cost the Scottish Government and other government agencies?
2. Breakdown of these costs and when they were incurred.
3. How much did the Census in 2011 cost and breakdowns of these costs.
4. How much did you or the Scottish Government pay for adverts, advertising the census?
5. Breakdown of these costs.

NRS Response:

The answer to the questions in numerical order is:

1. National Records of Scotland (NRS) is responsible for running the census in Scotland. As the census is still a live operation, information on the total cost is not yet held. I can confirm the total budget for Scotland's Census 2022 is £138.6m.

2. The breakdown of the budgeted cost for Scotland's Census 2022 in £m is provided in the table below:

Expenditure type	Prior to 2020/21	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
Contracts/ Procurement framework/ Field Operations	16	13	22.5	23.1			74.6
Resource	27.7	12	12.4	7	2.9	1.2	63.2
Other			0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.8
Total	43.7	25	35.1	30.3	3.1	1.4	138.6

3. The total cost of the Scotland's Census 2011 was £63.5m and the breakdown is provided in the table below:

Type	Census 2011 £m
Contracts/ Procurement framework/ Field Operations	53.3
Resource	5.6
Other	4.6
Total	63.5

4. NRS pays for the costs of advertising the census. The total cost of advertising the 2011 Census in Scotland was £1.5m and the total budgeted cost of advertising Scotland's Census 2022 is £2.5m.

5. While our aim is to provide the information whenever possible, in this instance we do not have a breakdown of advertising costs for the 2011 census. The budgeted cost of Scotland's Census 2022 Creative Advertising is £1m and Media adverts is £1.5m.

This is a formal notice under section 17(1) of FOISA that NRS does not have some information you have requested.