

**Subject:** Income generated by the ScotlandsPeople website since 2013.

**FOI reference:** FOI/18/02946

**Date received:** 13 October 2018

**Date responded:** 18 October 2018

**Information requested:**

Request for information regarding the income generated by the ScotlandsPeople website. In particular:

- Since 2013 what has been the annual income generated by ScotlandsPeople via the purchasing of credits for searching?
- How many users are there currently registered with ScotlandsPeople?

**NRS Response:**

1. The income of the ScotlandsPeople website is detailed below. Please note that from 1 April 2013 up until 31 August 2016, income was shared with our website service provider. Under the conditions of that contract it is not possible to reveal the income retained by that service provider. Therefore the income shown below for 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16 and part of 2016/17 reflects the income for National Records of Scotland (NRS), not the total income generated by ScotlandsPeople via the purchasing of credits for searching.

**ScotlandsPeople income from credits**

(Each year reported is from 1st April to 31st March.)

<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
£2,148,526.35	£2,070,159.98	£1,627,462.95	£2,202,091.51	£2,726,454.40

An exemption under section 36(2) (actionable breach of confidence) of FOISA applies to some of the information you have requested. The ScotlandsPeople income received by NRS from the period 1 April 2013 to 31 August 2016 was shared with our service provider. That income share arrangement was detailed within a contract between the two parties and the detail of that income share arrangement continues to be confidential.

This exemption is not subject to the 'public interest test' in section 2(1)(b) of FOISA. However, the public interest in the information is relevant when deciding if section 36(2) applies, given that the law of confidence provides that an obligation of confidence cannot apply to information where the public interest requires it to be disclosed. We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosing information as part of open and transparent government, and to help account for the generation and

expenditure of public money. We consider, however, that the greater public interest lies in NRS respecting the confidentiality clauses of this contract. Failure to do so would expose NRS to an actionable breach. Furthermore, disclosure would undermine trust that NRS will maintain confidences and would prejudice our ability to enter into competitive contracts in future and obtain the best value for public money.

2. The number of users currently registered with ScotlandsPeople is 1,208,361.