

[REDACTED]

Our ref: FOI-2026-06  
13 March 2026

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your email on 12 February 2026 to the Scottish Fiscal Commission requesting information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. The information you requested is as follows:

1. Please confirm whether departmental policy, contractual terms or internal procedures require an explicit outcome based warranty or guarantee confirming that personal data has been rendered irretrievable through software based erasure, whether carried out internally or by an external provider.

**Response - No. The Scottish Government provide the Scottish Fiscal Commission with IT services under a shared services agreement. Their policy and contractual terms require secure and compliant data erasure, but they do not mandate a separate, explicit outcome based warranty.**

2. Where software based data destruction is performed internally, what recorded evidential assurance does the department rely upon to conclude that the final data state is irretrievable?

**Response - This process is not carried out internally. All our devices are sent to a third party for secure data erasure.**

3. Where software based data destruction is performed by a third party provider, does the department hold recorded information demonstrating that any warranty or assurance provided explicitly extends to the software erasure method used and its claimed effectiveness? If so, please confirm the recorded nature of that verification.

**Response - Yes. The Scottish Government holds recorded assurance confirming that the provider's certified erasure process is effective and that documented evidence is supplied for each device.**

4. Where no explicit outcome based warranty is required or provided, what recorded form of evidential assurance does the department rely upon to conclude that software based erasure has rendered personal data irretrievable?


**Response – The Scottish Government relies on documented erasure certificates, asset tracking records, audit compliant process evidence, and compliance with recognised information security standards.**

If you are unhappy with this response to your request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by writing to: Mr John Ireland, Chief Executive, Scottish Fiscal Commission, email [Info@fiscalcommission.scot](mailto:Info@fiscalcommission.scot).

Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response and should be made within 40 working days from the date when you received this letter. We will complete the review and tell you the result, within 20 working days from the date when we receive your review request.

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. More detailed information on your appeal rights is available on the Commissioner's website at: [www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Unhappywiththeresponse/AppealingtoCommissioner.aspx](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Unhappywiththeresponse/AppealingtoCommissioner.aspx)

Yours sincerely



**Kirsty Andrew**  
**Business Manager**