

Hillcrest's Guide to Information

Last Reviewed: 8th November 2023

At a glance – terms used in this document

Term Used	Explanation
FOISA	<p>The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002</p> <p><i>Places a duty on those organisations covered to proactively publish certain types of information, to respond to requests for information and to provide advice and assistance to those making requests for information.</i></p>
EIRs	<p>Environmental Information Regulations (Scotland) 2004</p> <p><i>Those organisations covered by the EIRs have a duty to respond to requests for environmental information and actively disseminate environmental information.</i></p>
SIC	<p>The Scottish Information Commissioner</p> <p><i>The regulator responsible for ensuring that those bodies covered by FOISA and the EIRs comply with the terms of the legislation.</i></p>
MPS	<p>Model Publication Scheme</p> <p><i>Produced by the SIC – this details all of the information that those subject to FOISA should publish (if they hold it).</i></p>
Guide to Information	<p><i>A guide that all organisations subject to FOISA must produce to help people access the information it makes available.</i></p>
Classes of Information	<p><i>Nine broad categories describing the types of information authorities should publish (if they hold it).</i></p>

Background

The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) requires that Registered Social Landlords and certain connected bodies in Scotland must adopt and maintain a publication scheme. This must set out all of the information that we publish and how you can access it. Hillcrest has adopted the Scottish Information Commissioner's (SIC) [Model Publication Scheme \(MPS\)](#). This Guide to Information details what we publish and contains links to where you can find all of the information listed online.

Formats other than online

All of the information listed is available on our website (unless stated) and completely free to access online. However, we understand that not everyone will have online access and where this is the case you can contact us to view this in our office (where this would be convenient).

If you would like a printed copy of any of the information listed, to request information that we publish in a format other than online or to arrange a visit to our offices to view information, please contact:

Marc Hadden
Information Governance Adviser
Hillcrest Homes
1 Explorer Road
Dundee
DD2 1EG
informationgovernance@hillcrest.org.uk
0300 123 2640

Information that we cannot publish

Whilst we will try to make all of the information we have detailed available, in rare cases there may be some information that we cannot make available. For example, if we were to publish certain board minutes, it could reveal personal details about an individual. This would be a breach of Data Protection legislation if we were to do so. When this is the case, we will remove any personal details before publication and highlight where and why we have done so.

For how long will information be published?

We aim, where possible, to publish information for at least the current and previous two financial years. When we review and update individual documents (for example, our policy documents), we will only publish the current version to avoid confusion.

Copyright and re-use

Where we hold the copyright on our published information, the information may be copied or reproduced without formal permission, provided that:

- it is copied accurately
- it is not used in a misleading context
- the source of the material is identified.

Contact us

If you have any queries about anything contained within this Guide to Information, if any links are not working or if there is some information that you cannot find that you would like to access, please contact:

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The information that we make available to you

Under the MPS, the information we provide must be listed under certain “classes” of information. These are the categories of information that are detailed below. As FOISA applies to other bodies and sectors across Scotland (such as Scottish Government and Councils for example) this means that not all of the categories in the MPS apply to registered social landlords.

The details of all the information we hold under each of the classes are outlined below. Links to the information are provided when this information is available online.

Information we publish	Description
Class 1 - About Hillcrest	
<i>Information about Hillcrest, who we are, where to find us, how to contact us, how we are managed and our external relations.</i>	
Descriptions of who we are	
Aims and Values	Our mission statement, vision, key aims and key values
Areas of operation	Our Find a Home page details the areas in which Hillcrest Homes provides social housing
Summary of Business Plans	A summary of all of the business plans from throughout Hillcrest
How to contact us	
Contact Us	Our telephone number, email address, main office address and online form for contacting Hillcrest
Make a Complaint	Full details of our complaints procedure and how to make a complaint
Unacceptable Behaviour Policy	Our Policy to support our staff and promote positive engagement whilst ensuring that Hillcrest is in a position to protect our staff and organisation
Information relating to Freedom of Information	
How to Make a FOI Request	Full details of how to request information under the Freedom of Information legislation
Freedom of Information Policy Freedom of Information Procedure	Our Policy and Procedure in relation to how we comply with the Freedom of Information legislation
About our Governing Body	
Committee of Management – Hillcrest Homes Board of Directors – Hillcrest Futures Board of Directors – Hillcrest Maintenance	Details of our Board Members
About our staff	
Senior Team	Details of our Senior Team
Governance Documents and Corporate Policies	
The Rules of Hillcrest Homes	The Rules by which Hillcrest Homes must operate

Information we publish	Description
Standing Orders	The Standing Orders enabling the Association's members to establish procedures for the management of the Association by the Committee of Management on the members' behalf. This also includes the remits of the Committee of Management, the Audit and General Purposes Sub-committee and the Operations Sub-committee
Financial Regulations	Our Regulations setting out the financial management and control of all the companies within Hillcrest. This also includes details about our internal and external audit arrangements.
Articles of Association – Hillcrest Futures Articles of Association – Hillcrest Maintenance	The Articles of Association for both Hillcrest Futures and Hillcrest Maintenance
Board Membership Policy	Our Policy setting out how we will secure people with the attributes to serve on our Committee of Management. This also includes details of how to become a Committee Member
Shareholding Membership Policy	Our Policy in relation to members of Hillcrest Homes
National Involvement Network's Charter of Involvement	Hillcrest Futures has signed up to the Charter of Involvement and it can be accessed through the ARC Scotland website
Code of Conduct for Staff	The Model Code of Conduct of the SFHA which Hillcrest have adopted for staff
Code of Conduct for Governing Body Members	The Model Code of Conduct of the SFHA which Hillcrest have adopted for governing body members
Entitlements, Payments and Benefits Policy	Our Policy in relation to the acceptance or provision of gifts and hospitality <i>This document is currently under review</i>
Register of Interests	A register of the interests that have been declared by our governing body members <i>This item is available on request</i>

Information we publish	Description
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy	Our Policy in relation to how we comply with Equalities legislation
Health and Safety Policy	Our Policy in relation to how we comply with Health and Safety legislation
Environmental and Sustainability Policy	Our Policy in relation to our performance in all areas of our business with regards to environmental, social and economic sustainability
Relationship with Regulators	
Engagement Plan	Our Engagement Plan with the Scottish Housing Regulator
Assurance Statement	Our Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator
Annual Return on the Charter 2022/23 Annual Return on the Charter 2021/22 Annual Return on the Charter 2020/21	Our submission to the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) to allow the SHR to build a profile of Hillcrest Homes as a landlord and of the wider housing sector
Financial Accounts 2022/23 Five Year Financial Projections 2022/23 Loan Portfolio Annual Return 2022/23 Financial Accounts 2021/22 Five Year Financial Projections 2021/22 Loan Portfolio Annual Return 2021/22 Financial Accounts 2020/21 Five Year Financial Projections 2020/21 Loan Portfolio Annual Return 2020/21	Our Financial Returns to the Scottish Housing Regulator for 2022/23 and the previous two financial years <i>Our financial accounts for 2022/23 will be published soon.</i>
Organisation Details	
About Us	Information about Hillcrest and the various companies within Hillcrest
Class 2 – How we deliver our functions and services <i>Information about our work, our strategy and policies for delivering services and information for our service users.</i>	
Our Services – Social Housing	
Domestic Abuse Support	Information about domestic abuse and what you can do if you are a victim
Energy Advice	Information about our free energy advice service

Information we publish	Description
Get Involved	Information about how you can get involved
Helping Our People Engage (Hope)	Information about a free service for people over 16 who are living in Dundee
Make a Change	<p>Information about how to advise us of a change in your circumstances including information about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a change of household composition • applications for mutual exchange • sole to joint tenancy • joint to sole tenancy • passing on your tenancy • succession • keeping a pet
Help with Benefits and Money	Information about how our Tenancy Sustainment team can help you with the financial aspects of starting and maintaining your tenancy. This page also includes information about Universal Credit and local agencies that can provide advice
Paying your Rent	Information about how to pay your rent
Report a Repair	Full details of how to report a repair including our repairs categories and response times and what happens when you report a repair
Find a Home	Information about how to apply for a Hillcrest Homes property
Our Services – Care and Support	
Support Services	Details about how to get support in relation to autism, homelessness, learning disabilities, older people, self-directed support, student support, substance use and young people
Service Brochures	<p>Each of the services run by Hillcrest Futures produces a brochure with full details about the service</p> <p><i>These brochures are available on request</i></p>

Information we publish	Description
Service Improvement Plans	Each of the services run by Hillcrest Futures has an improvement plan in place <i>These plans are available on request</i>
Our Services – Maintenance	
Maintenance	Details of the services provided by Hillcrest Maintenance
Strategies, Policies and Procedures	
Tackling Poverty Together Strategy	Our Strategy setting out how we will help tackle poverty and improve financial security and wellbeing
Allocations Policy	Our Policy setting out Hillcrest Homes' commitment to an open, transparent and accountable allocations process which complies with the law and reflects regulatory and best practice requirements
Anti-Social Behaviour Policy	Our Policy in respect of anti-social behaviour and how we will provide a framework within which incidents of anti-social behaviour will be dealt with
Income Management Policy	Our Policy setting out how Hillcrest Homes will apply common principles and take a clear and consistent approach to the management of arrears and the collection of income for all services
Estate Management Policy	Our Policy in relation to the management of our rented, shared ownership and mixed tenure developments
Rent Setting Policy	Our Policy setting out how we will apply key principles to set and maintain rents at affordable levels
Fair Tariff Policy	Our policy setting out how we will apply common principles in relation to tariff setting for domestic dwellings and commercial properties
Voids Policy	Our Policy to ensure that empty properties are let in an efficient, cost effective and fair fashion

Information we publish	Description
Domestic Abuse Policy	Our Policy detailing the steps we will take to support tenants who are victims of domestic abuse
Risk Management Policy	Our Policy and Procedure addressing strategic or major risk management within Hillcrest
Tenants' Handbook	Our handbook for tenants <i>This will be published soon</i>
Class 3 – How we take decisions and what we have decided <i>Information about the decisions we take, how we make decisions and how we involve others.</i>	
Governing Body Meetings	
Governing Body Papers	<p>The agenda, papers and minutes for the meetings of our governing body. We will publish the papers of our:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee of Management • Audit and General Purposes Sub-committee • Operations Sub-committee • Hillcrest Futures Board • Hillcrest Maintenance Board <p>The papers can be filtered using the options on the left-hand side of the page</p>
Consultation and Participation	
Tenant Participation Strategy	Our Tenant Participation Strategy setting out how tenants and other customers can take part in our decision making and how they can influence decisions about housing services, housing policies and procedures and housing conditions
Class 4 – What we spend and how we spend it <i>Information about our strategy for, and management of, financial resources (in sufficient detail to explain how we plan to spend public money and what has actually been spent).</i>	
Information about our accounts and budgets	
Statutory Accounts 2022/23 Statutory Accounts 2021/22 Statutory Accounts 2020/21	<p>Hillcrest's statutory accounts for 2022/23 and the previous two financial years which include sections on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members, Executives and Advisers

Information we publish	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of the Committee of Management • Strategic Report • Statement of the Committee's Responsibilities • Report of the Auditors • Report of the Auditors on Corporate Governance Matters • Statements of Comprehensive Income • Statements of Financial Position • Statements of Changes in Reserves • Statements of Cash Flows • Notes of Financial Statements
Budget Holder Roles and Responsibilities	<p>Our Procedure covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the allocation of budgets to budget holders • budget setting • quarterly management accounts • authorisation limits
Our programme of work and projects	
Developments	Our current development programme
Spending relating to Staff and Governing Body	
Mileage, Subsistence and Other Expenses Policy	Our Policy and Procedure in relation to the payment of staff expenses
<p>Governing Body Member Expenses 2022/23 Governing Body Member Expenses 2021/22 Governing Body Member Expenses 2020/21 Senior Staff Expenses 2022/23 Senior Staff Expenses 2021/22 Senior Staff Expenses 2020/21</p>	<p>The expenses of our governing body members and senior staff members broken down at category level</p> <p><i>The expenses for 22/23 will be published soon</i></p>
Pay and Grading Structure 2023/24 Pay and Grading Structure 2022/23 Pay and Grading Structure 2021/22	Our pay bandings for each grade of staff within Hillcrest Homes, Hillcrest Futures and Hillcrest Maintenance

Information we publish	Description
Class 5 – How we manage our resources Information about how we manage our human, physical and information resources	
Human resources	
Staffing Structure	The staffing structure for Hillcrest <i>This item is available on request</i>
Trade Union Agreement	The Recognition and Procedural Agreement between Hillcrest Maintenance and Unite the Union
Bullying and Harassment Maximising Attendance Disciplinary Grievance Learning and Development Removal and Relocation Retirement Recruitment and Selection Leave and Special Leave Maternity and Adoption Flexible Working Redundancy Disclosure Information and Consultation Flexitime Childcare Voucher Alcohol and Substance Misuse Stress Management Secondment Exit Questionnaire Staff Code of Conduct Probationary Contracts Shared Parental Leave Performance at Work Job Evaluation Psychometric Testing Working Regulations Nightworker Extreme Weather Emergency Situations Mental Health and Wellbeing Recognition and Reward	Our Policies and Procedures relating to our HR function <i>One document is currently under review</i>

Information we publish	Description
Personnel Files Mediation Social Media Policy Paternity and Parental Leave Buying and Selling Annual Leave Volunteering Work Experience and Placements Domestic Abuse (Support to Employees) Hybrid Working Menopause	
SFHA Dundee and Angus Chamber of Commerce Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce Scotland's Housing Network HouseMark Chartered Institute of Housing	Links to the websites of the professional organisations/trade bodies of which we are a member
Physical Resources	
Property Strategy	Our Strategy setting out a clear vision of how Hillcrest will manage its portfolio of properties
Property Maintenance Policy	<p>Our Policy to ensure the provision of good quality housing to people in need and to ensure all property assets are maintained to a high standard and continue to meet the demands and aspirations of customers</p> <p><i>This document is currently under review</i></p>
Asbestos Management Policy	<p>Our Policy outlining how Hillcrest plans to fulfil its duties under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 (CAR 2012)</p> <p><i>This document is currently under review</i></p>
Leases and Protocols Policy	<p>Our Policy when considering whether to enter into a Lease or a Support Provider Protocol</p> <p><i>This document is currently under review</i></p>

Information we publish	Description
Partnering Policy	Our Policy in relation to the fostering of partnerships with contractors <i>This document is currently under review</i>
Gas Safety Policy	Our Policy in relation to gas safety
Information Resources	
Records Management Policy Records Management Procedure Data and Record Archiving and Disposal Procedure Record Retention Schedules	Our Policy and Procedures in relation to how we store, access and dispose of data
Data Protection Policy Data Breach Management Procedure	Our Policy and Procedures in relation to how we process personal data
Class 6 - How we procure goods and services from external providers Information about how we procure works, goods and services, and our contracts with external providers.	
Our Contractors and suppliers	
Approved Contractors List	Our list of the approved contractors used by Hillcrest <i>This list is currently under review</i>
Our Procurement	
Procurement Strategy	Our strategy setting out how we will direct our external expenditure on goods, services and works
Annual Procurement Report 2022/23 Annual Procurement Report 2021/22 Annual Procurement Report 2020/21	Our report on our performance and achievements in delivering our Procurement Strategy for 2022/23 and the previous two financial years
Procurement Policy Procurement Procedure	Our Policy and Procedure in relation to how we procure services
Procurement	Information about how we procure services and how you can tender for work
Register of Contracts	A link to our Procurement page where you can find a copy of our register of the contracts we have awarded including the names of our

Information we publish	Description
	suppliers and the value and duration of the contracts
Open Tenders	A link to the Public Contracts Scotland page listing all invitations to tender over £50,000, including those of Hillcrest. Search for 'Hillcrest' under the 'Keywords' field to see our open tenders
Class 7 – How we are performing Information about how we perform as an organisation, and how well we deliver our functions and services	
Annual Report 2022/23 Annual Report 2021/22 Annual Report 2020/21	Our Annual Report for 2022/23 and the previous two financial years
Annual Performance Report 2022/23 Annual Performance Report 2021/22 Annual Performance Report 2020/21	Our Annual Performance Report for the year 2022/23 and the previous two financial years.
Duty of Candour Annual Report 2020/21 Duty of Candour Annual Report 2019/20 Duty of Candour Annual Report 2018/19	Our Duty of Candour Annual Report for the year 2020/21 and the previous two financial years
Complaints Policy Complaints Handling Procedure Complaints Procedure Booklet	Hillcrest's Policy and Procedure in relation to complaints and a booklet describing our complaints procedure and how to make a complaint
Class 8 – Our commercial publications <i>Information packaged and made available for sale on a commercial basis and sold at market value through a retail outlet e.g. bookshop, museum or research journal</i>	
This class does not apply to Hillcrest as we do not produce any publications for sale.	
Class 9 – Our open data Open data made available by us under the Scottish Government's Open Data Resource Pack and available under open licence.	
This class does not apply to Hillcrest.	