

64486 Council Prayers

I am researching the practice of prayers before council meetings. I'd be grateful if you could please answer the following questions under the Freedom of Information Act:

Between 26 May 2015 and 1 September 2026, have prayers ever been held at the start of meetings at the council?

If the answer is 'No', please proceed to Question 5.

[No; The City of Edinburgh Council ceased having prayers in 2012.](#)

If the answer is 'Yes', please answer the following in relation to the prayers:

If the practise of holding prayers began after 26 May 2015, please provide the start date.

If the practise of holding prayers ended between 26 May 2015 and 1 September 2026, please provide the date that they ceased. If prayers are still said at the council, please reply 'still held' or words to that effect.

If prayers are still held at the council, please specify:

- a) What religion (if applicable) are the prayers at present? (If they reflect multiple religions, please specify 'multifaith')
- b) Do the prayers reflect the council's chaplain, if applicable?
- c) Are the prayers held as an official agenda item, or are they held before the meeting starts and not on the agenda?

[Not applicable.](#)

If prayers are not held at the council currently, please specify whether any sort of moment's silence or non-religious reflection takes place instead.

[There was a non-religious "Pause for Reflection" before Council meetings \(not part of the formal meeting\) from 2012 until February 2025.](#)