

19 January 2022

### **Request under The Freedom Of Information (Scotland) Act 2002**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 16 December 2021, in which you requested the following:

I would like to request further information about the grant of £49,500 being allocated to the North Coast 500 Limited as part of the Sector & Destination Operational and Market Readiness Fund (Covid-19). I would like:

- details about the North Coast 500 Limited application to the fund
- how the grant awarded is being used by the NC500 Limited.
- whether it is a stipulation of any grants awarded that the recipient has to put any works, paid for by the award, out to tender

I have considered your request and can respond as follows:

The North Coast 500 limited was awarded a grant of £49,500 as part of the Sector & Destination Operational and Market Readiness Fund (Covid-19). This Fund was established to provide support for established multi regional or pan-Scotland tourism sector groups and destination organisations who represent the interests of a substantive number of tourism businesses and stakeholders within their destination and sector and whose role is critical to the ongoing success of the tourism industry in Scotland to prepare for a post-COVID-19 environment.

Successful recipients of funding had to meet the criteria outlined on [visitscotland.org](https://www.visitscotland.org).

Within their application, the North Coast 500 limited detailed:

1. The organisation details (address, membership count, etc.)
2. Their current core and grant funding
3. Their pre-COVID-19 market and operational focus
4. The activities fundamental to their ability to be operationally and market ready post Covid-19
5. The activities planned if successful with the grant application

In relation to confirmed outputs which the North Coast 500 limited have delivered using the grant, the deadline for this reporting has not yet passed, so we do not possess this information at this time.

In relation to procurement, it was not a condition of the fund that recipients had to work under the VisitScotland procurement framework nor were they obliged to put work paid for the award out to tender.

We hope this information is helpful to you. If, however, you are not satisfied with our response or the manner in which we have dealt with your application, you may in the first instance contact our

Chief Executive, Malcolm Roughead, whose contact details are set out below:

Mr Malcolm Roughead  
Chief Executive  
VisitScotland  
Ocean Point One  
94 Ocean Drive  
Edinburgh, EH6 6JH  
Telephone: 0131 472 2201  
Fax: 0131 472 2223  
E-mail: [malcolm.roughead@visitscotland.com](mailto:malcolm.roughead@visitscotland.com)

If you wish to request a review of your application under either the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 or the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004, your request should be submitted to us in writing, or another permanent format (for example e-mail or voice recording), and be received by us within 40 days of the date of this letter. Any request for a review should also set out, in as much detail as possible, the reasons why you are not satisfied with our response or the manner in which we have dealt with your application.

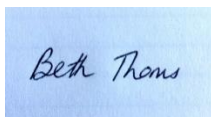
If you are still not satisfied with our handling of your application after we have responded to your request for a review, you have a right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner for a decision on whether we have dealt with your request in accordance with the Act.

The Scottish Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Scottish Information Commissioner  
Kinburn Castle  
Doubledykes Road  
St Andrews, Fife  
KY16 9DS  
Telephone: 01334 464610  
Fax: 01334 464611  
E-mail: [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info)

You also have the right to appeal to the Court of Session in Scotland on a point of law concerning our response.

Yours sincerely,



Beth Thoms  
Government and Parliamentary Affairs Executive  
VisitScotland