

20 July 2022

Request under The Freedom Of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 22 June 2022, in which you requested the following:

“Could you please provide data on VisitScotland’s total annual spend on fair trade goods throughout each of the past two annual accounts? (i.e. data from both 2020-2021 and 2021-2022). Could you break it down by vendor name; whether they were contracted/non-contracted; description of item(s) purchased; and the total value per order? I’ve attached an example below for further clarification. Could you also include items purchased for resale?”

I am aware that, given potential limitations, you may only be able to capture spend where purchasers have specifically used such terms as “fair” and “trade”, “fairtrade” or “fairly” and “traded” in their requisitions, and so items where buyers have used catalogue item numbers will not be reflected in the data. I will be sure to state these issues in my research report.

As a final request, could you also attach your current general policy on the procurement of fairly and ethically traded goods and services, in line with section 15(5)(b)(v) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014?”

I have considered your request and can respond as follows:

I have provided a separate spreadsheet outlining the annual spend by VisitScotland on fair trade goods for the periods 2020-21 and 2021-22 (contained in separate tabs). This has been broken down by vendor; contract; description; and value as per requested. This information has been provided by Lyreco who hold the information on our behalf.

We do not have a specific procurement policy for “fairly and ethically traded goods and services” and fair trade is not specifically mentioned in our general procurement policy. Therefore, in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, Section 17, we have not provided this information on the grounds that we do not hold the information as set out in the request.

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Government & Parliamentary Affairs Manager

VisitScotland