

20 April 2020

Request under The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 24 March 2020, in which you requested the following:

Under Freedom of Information I would like to request documents/minutes between VisitScotland and the Scottish Government relating to the Scottish Government's decision to exclude self-catering businesses from the scheme for £10,000 grants for small businesses in receipt of the Small Business Bonus Scheme or Rural Relief being offered as part of the Covid 19 crisis.

I have considered your request and can respond as follows:

There are no documents or minutes held of conversations between VisitScotland and the Scottish Government concerning Scottish Government support for self-catering businesses.

Since your enquiry, and as you will know, The Association of Scotland's Self-Caterers, with support from The Scottish Tourism Alliance has been pressing the Scottish Government for further financial assistance for self-catering businesses. These representations, made directly to Scottish Government Ministers, are ongoing.

VisitScotland continues to work to ensure that the issues and concerns of the tourism sector are presented to the Scottish Government. For example, by establishing and chairing the Scottish Tourism Emergency Response Group, VisitScotland is ensuring that this forum, which includes senior Scottish Government tourism officials, provides a further communication channel for the industry to government.

Here is a link to the STERG section of VisitScotland.org, which includes a note of the discussion from each meeting.

<https://www.visitscotland.org/supporting-your-business/advice/coronavirus/sterg>

I hope this information is helpful to you. If, however, you are not satisfied with this response or the manner in which your enquiry has been handled, you may in the first instance contact our Chief Executive, Malcolm Roughead, whose contact details are set out below:

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.

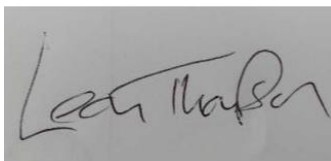
If you are still not satisfied with our handling of your application after we have responded to your request for a review, you have a right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner for a decision on whether we have dealt with your request in accordance with the Act.

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

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to read 'Leon Thompson'.

Leon Thompson
Government and Parliamentary Affairs Manager
VisitScotland