

22 March 2021

Request under The Freedom Of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 23 February 2021, in which you requested the following:

1. Provide a list of the businesses/industry groups/representatives consulted by VisitScotland during the development of the 'Scotland Coach Operators – COVID-19 Business Support and Continuity Fund'
2. Confirm the dates of any meetings that took place with these organisations and provide the minutes for these meetings.

I have considered your request and can respond as follows:

Each of the funds that VisitScotland has administered on behalf of the Scottish Government has been developed in conjunction with the leading industry body. In the case of the coach fund, VisitScotland worked with the Confederation of Passenger Transport (CPT), drawing on the organisation's technical and sector knowledge to develop and refine the criteria for the fund.

The Scottish Government (SG) was also included and meetings were held on the following dates, to discuss the criteria for the fund:

16th December – VS/CPT/SG
12th January – VS/CPT
18th January – VS/CPT
19th January – VS/CPT/SG/ MacPhail's Coaches
3rd February – VS/CPT
24th February - VS/CPT/SG

At the meeting on 19 January CPT invited an additional industry representative, Macphail's Coaches, to attend the discussion.

VisitScotland does not hold minutes from the meetings. The purpose of the initial meetings was to refine the criteria with CPT, particularly on points of eligibility and to agree levels of support for eligible classes of vehicles. The guidance and application documents were the focus of these meetings, with email follow up.

The final version of the criteria is available on VisitScotland.org.

<https://www.visitscotland.org/supporting-your-business/funding/coach-operator-fund/guidance>

I trust this information is helpful to you. If, however, you are not satisfied with the response or the manner in which your application has been managed, 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 VisitScotland 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.

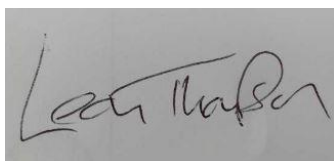
If you are still not satisfied with our handling of your application after we have responded to your request for a review, you have a right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner for a decision on whether we have dealt with your request in accordance with the Act.

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 be 'Malcolm Roughead' written in a cursive style.

Leon Thompson
Government and Parliamentary Affairs Manager
VisitScotland