

3 June 2021

Request under The Freedom Of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 7 May 2021. I have provided the answers below, beside your original questions.

- 1. Provide a list of qualifying coach companies that were awarded the Scotland Coach Operators- COVID 19 Business Support and Continuity Fund.**
- 2. The amount of funding awarded to each individual coach operator.**

In relation to both questions 1 and 2, recipients and funding award levels will be published on VisitScotland's corporate website, www.visitscotland.org, once the fund is closed.

- 3. Minutes of meetings with either the STERG working group meetings, VisitScotland meetings (or other departments) where the criteria for the Scottish Coach Operators Fund was discussed and agreed and who was present?**

This criteria was not discussed at STERG.

The Confederation of Passenger Transport (CPT) lobbied the Scottish Government (SG) for the money to support the sector. SG set up the initial meeting with CPT and VisitScotland (VS) where the initial principals of the criteria were agreed. This criteria was refined in subsequent meetings with CPT. At the meeting on 19 January CPT invited an additional industry representative, Macphail's Coaches, to attend the discussion.

Dates and groups present at all meetings listed below:

- 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

VisitScotland does not hold minutes from the meetings as 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. Subsequently the guidance and application documents were the focus of these meetings, with email follow up.

The different versions of this guidance are provided as PDF attachments to this response. The final version of the criteria agreed is available on VisitScotland.org:

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

4. The method of assessment or process of procurement involved in awarding the firm Cheine + Tait as the accountancy firm?

VisitScotland published a Contract Notice through Public Contracts Scotland as a regulated procurement exercise.

The weighted evaluation criteria was:

- Price (40%)
- Suitability and credentials of proposed resource (25%)
- Applied experience of delivering same or similar services (25%)
- Flexibility & Resilience (10%)

5. Who proposed and authorised that the initial 150K cap could be raised to 700K for individual companies?

This was agreed between VisitScotland and Confederation of Passenger Transport.

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.

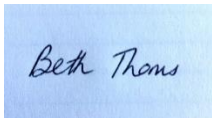
The Scottish Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

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,

A blue rectangular box containing the handwritten signature "Beth Thoms" in black ink.

Beth Thoms
Government and Parliamentary Affairs Executive
VisitScotland