



Suzanne Kelly  
request-695455-c9e7cb14@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Reference: 202000093271

26 October 2020

Dear Ms Kelly

## **REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002 (FOISA)**

Thank you for your request dated 30 September 2020 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) regarding Spaces for People.

### Your request

Please advise on funding for the Spaces for People programme of temporary measures relating to Covid- 19 throughout Scotland; this link and paragraphs from website refer:

<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-blog/projects/2020/scotland/spaces-for-people-making-essential-travel-and-exercise-safer-during-coronavirus>

"The Spaces for People programme is funded by the Scottish Government and managed by Sustrans Scotland.

"It aims to enable statutory bodies to implement measures focused on protecting public health, supporting physical distancing and preventing a second wave of the outbreak."

1. How much in total will be paid to SUSTRANS for its role in the project?
2. How was SUSTRANS selected as the lead for a project with a life-or-death public health infectious disease remit?
3. How did SUSTRANS choose experts to advise on its projects such as building wooden 'parklets' and benches in Aberdeen, and replacing Aberdeen's bus stops with wooden bus stops?
4. Has the Scottish Government received any complaints about the implementation of the project - if

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so please give details/share data.

5. What measurement criteria are involved in determining success or failure of the plan and how is the scheme being monitored?
6. Does the Scottish Government know how many disabled parking bays were negatively impacted by the implementation?
7. What was the rationale for encouraging people to not use cars (where they would have been more distanced from others and more isolated from aerosol virus droplets) and to walk or 'wheel' instead?
8. Does the government accept that people with mobility issues have been negatively impacted by Sustrans' plans?
9. How much funding has the Scottish government give to Sustrans for the past 5 years?

#### Response to your request

The answers to some of the questions asked are:

1. No new grant funding has been awarded to Sustrans for the Spaces for People programme. Funding for Spaces for People has been repurposed from grant funding allocated to the Sustrans Places for Everyone programme.
2. Sustrans plays an administrative role in the delivery of the Spaces for People funding to local authority-led projects. Spaces for People is funded through repurposed Places for Everyone funding, a programme Sustrans manage as an expert organisation in walking and cycling infrastructure delivery.
3. The Scottish Government does not hold this information as resourcing is an internal decision making matter for Sustrans. Local authorities are fully responsible for the delivery of projects.
4. The Scottish Government has received one formal complaint regarding the implementation of Spaces for People.
5. The Scottish Government does not hold information on the monitoring of individual projects as monitoring is the responsibility of local authorities. Local authorities are monitoring all projects to understand the impact of changes, and will evaluate each of these in line with the Monitoring & Evaluation Framework for Spaces for People.
6. The Scottish Government does not hold information on the number of disabled parking bays impacted, as the management of local roads is the responsibility of local authorities.
7. Information on the aims of Spaces for People can be found via: <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-blog/projects/2020/scotland/spaces-for-people-making-essential-travel-and-exercise-safer-during-coronavirus>. Under section 25(1) of FOISA, we do not have to provide information which is already reasonably accessible to you.
8. This does not fall within the scope of FOISA because it is a request for an opinion rather than for recorded information. Local authorities are responsible for individual projects and ensuring infrastructure is accessible to all. We expect local authorities implementing the temporary measures to continue to comply with all relevant statutory duties including, where applicable, the public sector equality duty and requirements to carry out equality impact assessments. Sustrans, as administrators of the fund on behalf of Scottish Government, continue to work with Mobility and Access Committee Scotland to ensure that the needs of disabled people are fully considered in the development of infrastructure.
9. Sustrans have received the following grant funding for the past 5 years:

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Grant Awards to Sustrans Scotland 2016/17 - 2020/21	
Year	Amount of Grant Awarded
2020/21	£63,119,660.00
2019/20	£59,128,076.00
2018/19	£56,810,685.00
2017/18	£28,059,600.00
2016/17	£27,641,037.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£234,759,058.00</b>

As explained above, the Scottish Government does not have some of the information you have asked for. This is a formal notice under section 17(1) of FOISA that the Scottish Government does not have the information you have requested.

However, you may wish to contact Sustrans Scotland at [scotland@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:scotland@sustrans.org.uk) who may be able to help you, or individual local authorities directly.

#### Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your FOI request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by writing to:

Laura Murdoch  
Director of Bus and Active Travel  
Victoria Quay  
EH6 6QQ  
Email: [TSS@transport.gov.scot](mailto:TSS@transport.gov.scot)

Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made within 40 working days from the date when you received this letter. We will complete the review in accordance with FOISA as soon as possible.

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. More detailed information on your appeal rights is available on the Commissioner's website at: <http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Unhappywiththeresponse/AppealingtoCommissioner.aspx>.

Yours sincerely

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