



Department for
International Trade

Retail Trade Team
Department for International Trade
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Our ref: FOI2016/31942

03 January 2017

Dear Mr Robertson,

Thank you for your email dated 18 November 2016 within which you requested the following information:

“About a company called Pants to Poverty Ltd that was part of a social enterprise bus tour, managed by the British Council, to destinations including South Korea.

(1)

What information is held about UKTI support to Pants to Poverty or Ethical Fashion Forum (which are overlapping organisations - Pants has been two limited companies in succession and a related charity; Ethical Fashion has been two similar-named companies in parallel. All of them shared a habit of running seminars and an office at Rich Mix Cultural Foundation 35-47 Bethnal Green Rd, London E1 6LA)

(2)

What process was used to select Pants to Poverty for a bus promotion in 2014?”

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you require
- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

Your request was addressed to UK Trade & Investment (UKTI), however UKTI was replaced by the Department for International Trade (DIT) in July 2016. Your request has therefore been processed by DIT.

With regard to your first request, we have identified the following information held by DIT regarding UKTI support to Pants to Poverty or Ethical Fashion Forum.

Pants to Poverty was included on the UKTI's Passport to Export Programme (November 2011 to November 2012) and then a subsequent Gateway to Global Growth Programme (February

2013 to February 2014). Both programmes gave the company access to different types of support, including advice and guidance provided by an international trade adviser, and access to the wider UKTI overseas network. On the Gateway programme, the company was also able to access funding towards the costs of certain activities, such as developing an online distribution system and business trips abroad. UKTI funding to Pants to Poverty for these activities amounted to £4,000.

With regard to your second request, DIT does not hold any information related to the bus promotion tour as this was organised by the British Council.

Appeals procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of receipt of the response to your original request and should be addressed to the Information Rights Unit:

Information Rights Unit
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET
Email: FOI.Requests@beis.gsi.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

The Retail Trade Team