

241114 (146) FOI Solar Panels

From: Freedom of Information <foi@sose.scot>

Sent: 14 November 2024 13:34

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Freedom of Information <foi@sose.scot>

Subject: Freedom of Information Request

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your freedom of information request of 23 October 2024. We are responding to you under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

FOI REQUEST (23 October 2024)

1. The number and details of grants awarded by South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) for the installation of solar panels on business premises in the Borders and across Scotland, including:
 - o The total number of grants awarded
 - o The total value of grants distributed
 - o A breakdown by year and region (if available)
2. A detailed outline of the application process for businesses interested in applying for grants to install solar panels, including:
 - o Eligibility criteria
 - o Required documentation
 - o Timelines and assessment processes

CLARIFICATION (Received 24 October 2024)

Request: Clarification on what was meant by 'breakdown by year' and 'breakdown by region'.

Response: Breakdown, by calendar year from 2018 to October 2024, detailing the specific regions or areas within the South of Scotland (e.g., Ettrick, Roxburgh, and Berwickshire, or Dumfriesshire)? If obtaining this level of detail presents a challenge, a summary for the entire South of Scotland, broken down by calendar year from January 2018, would be sufficient.

FOI RESPONSE

South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) was launched on 1 April 2020, therefore we have provided information for the financial years from this date.

1. SOSE do not have specific grants solely for the installation of solar panels. We have provided the following information for the south of Scotland region:
 - a) SOSE grant awards where the whole grant was for installation of solar panels – **TABLE A**
 - b) SOSE grant awards where installation of solar panels was a component of the overall project - **TABLE B**.

The solar panel component of the grant award can incorporate a range of costs including panels, batteries, ventilation, inverters and other electrical and installation work and can be a requirement of the building warrant rather than a specific measure installed as part of the funding award.

TABLE A					
Financial Year	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 (to end Oct)

Number of grant awards by FY / region / value of grant award	0	0	1 (Border/ £94,710) 1 (D&G / £87,057)	1 (Border / £125,000)	0
Total Value of grants	0	0	£181,767	£125,000	0

TABLE B					
Financial Year	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 (to end Oct)
Number of grant awards by FY / region /value of grant	1 (D&G / £2,234,735) 1 (D&G / £972,000)	1 (D&G / £150,000) 1 (D&G / £289,389.50)	1 (Border / £197,623) 1 (D&G / £420,000) 1 (D&G / £58,724) 1 (D&G / £81,411)	1 (D&G / £65,327) 1 (D&G / £246,575)	1 (D&G / £30,292.80)
Total Value of grants	£3,206,735.00	£439,389.50	£757,758.00	£311,902.00	£30,292.80

Key

Border = Scottish Borders Region

D&G = Dumfries and Galloway Region

2. As mentioned previously, SOSE do not have specific grants solely for the installation of solar panels. All SOSE grant awards follow our standard appraisal and due diligence process. Information relating to the organisation and the project is gathered and analysed against standard appraisal criteria:

- Strategic case
- Economic case (including impact on Place, Inclusive Growth, Fair Work, Net Zero, Natural Capital, Community Wealth Building)
- Financial case (including consideration of Value for Money, additionality, displacement)
- Management case
- Commercial case

The approval process follows our Delegated Authority Policy and successful approval is based on project alignment with strategic priorities, appraisal criteria (above) and available budget. A grant offer letter outlining the award terms and conditions is signed by the organisation and SOSE.

SOSE standard grant terms and conditions are available on our [website](#).

You have the right to request a review of the way in which this request has been processed. Should you wish to exercise this right, you will need to contact us within 40 working days of receipt of this email.

If you remain dissatisfied on completion of the review, you have the right to appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner and thereafter to the Court of Session on a point of law only:

Scottish Information Commissioner

Kinburn Castle

Doubledykes Road

St Andrews

Fife

KY16 9DS

Telephone: 01334 464610

www.foi.scot

or for online appeals:

www.foi.scot/appeal

Regards,
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