

Environmental Standards Scotland
Ìrean Àrainneachdail na h-Alba

Alasdair Dewar
Freedom of Information Officer
foi@environmentalstandards.scot
0808 1964000

ENVIRONMENTAL
Standards Scotland
Ìrean Àrainneachdail na h-Alba

[redacted]
[redacted]

25/09/2023

Our ref: ESS.FOI.018

Dear [redacted] ,

Thank you for your email on the 06 September 2023 to Environmental Standards Scotland requesting information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. The information which you request is as follows:

Our information request is with regards to the delivery of sustainable transport within Scotland's Public Bodies, and particularly in the context of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

Firstly, we are interested in Public Bodies' targets for business travel:

- 1. Do you have a target to cut emissions from air and/or business travel? If so, please share information about any target(s) you have (e.g. description of the target, when the target was adopted, timeline to meeting the target).**

Secondly, we are interested in Public Bodies' corporate travel policies and plans:

- 2. Please provide copies of any corporate policy your organisation has on the reduction of emissions from business travel.**
- 3. Please provide copies of any corporate policy your organisation has on the reduction of the use of air travel for business travel purposes.**

Environmental Standards Scotland
enquiries@environmentalstandards.scot
Thistle House, 91 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5HD
0808 1964000

Finally, we are specifically interested in Public Bodies' use of rail and air for domestic travel:

- 4. Please provide details of the number of flights your staff have taken from Edinburgh & Glasgow Airports to London Airports for business purposes in the past 12 months (or your most recent 12 month reporting period) for travel to destinations within south-east England.**
- 5. Please provide details of the number of rail journeys your staff have taken from Edinburgh & Glasgow railway stations to London railway stations for business purposes in the past 12 months (or your most recent 12 month reporting period) for travel to destinations within south-east England.**

Response:

1. ESS currently does not have a specific target to cut emissions from air and/or business travel, as we are in the early stages of organisational development (having vested in October 2021) and are still gathering the evidence to set these targets. Further information on this can be found on our website in our [Sustainability Plan Report](#).
2. ESS is currently creating its first corporate policy on business travel, which will include details on the reduction of emissions from business travel. Further information on this can be found on our website in our [Sustainability Plan Report](#).
3. ESS is currently creating its first corporate policy on business travel, which will include details on the reduction of use of air travel for business travel purposes. Further information on this can be found on our website in our [Sustainability Plan Report](#).
4. ESS staff have taken zero flights from Edinburgh and Glasgow airports to London Airports for business purposes in the past 12 months up to the end of August 2023 for travel to destinations within the south-east.
5. ESS staff have taken eight rail journeys from Edinburgh and Glasgow railway stations to London railway stations for business purposes in the past 12 months up to the end of August 2023 for travel to destinations within the south-east.

If you are unhappy with this response to your request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response by writing to:

Mark Roberts
Chief Executive Officer
Environmental Standards Scotland
Thistle House
91 Haymarket Terrace
Edinburgh
EH12 5HD
Email foi@environmentalstandards.scot

Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made within 40 working days from the due date when you received this letter. We will complete the review and tell you the result within 20 working days from the date when we receive your review request.

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:

[Appeal to the Commissioner | Scottish Information Commissioner \(itspublicknowledge.info\)](https://www.scot.nhs.uk/itspublicknowledge/info)

Yours sincerely,



Alasdair Dewar
Freedom of Information Officer
Environmental Standards Scotland