

230823 (100) FOI Funding to Building Futures Galloway

From: [Freedom of Information](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Freedom of Information](#)
Subject: Freedom of Information Request
Date: 23 August 2023 15:38:00
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 31 July 2023. We are responding to you under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

FOI REQUEST (31 July 2023)

1. Could you please advise if SOSE are/were aware of the burden and missives in place at the Whithorn Old Town hall at time of any funding supplied to Building Futures Galloway to purchase the Whithorn Old Town Hall? And were you advised of the ongoing legal investigation that is currently in progress.
2. I understand that through your FOI response to me, that an acquisition of the Whithorn Old Town Hall was successful via the SOSE funding provided to Building Futures Galloway in 2022. Could you please confirm this and also the date you are aware of the of acquisition completion.
3. Are SOSE aware of any other funding applications pending (other than the £6,636 in our initial FOI request) for the Whithorn Old Town Hall by the Whithorn Trust and/or their project Whithorn Rebuild and are you aware that they hold misleading and false information with a cross over of charities and companies. This concerns us greatly, and I would assume it would hopefully concern SOSE too?
4. Could you confirm if Building Futures Galloway bought the Whithorn Old Town Hall from the 'Whithorn Trust'? If not, then from who?
5. Could you please confirm who the funding of the £250,000 had been given to; BUILDING FUTURES GALLOWAY LIMITED, SC725146 - Incorporated on 4 March 2022 or; BUILDING FUTURES GALLOWAY (TRAINING) LIMITED, (The charity) - SC741111 - Incorporated on 12 August 2022
6. Did SOSE provide any funding or grants to the Whithorn Trust or to Building Futures Galloway for trainee and or employees' wages for the Whithorn Rebuild staff or trainees at any time?
 - 6a. If so, could you please provide what the funding amounts were.
 - 6b. Date of the funding given or the dates this extends too (the period of time it extends over)?
7. Are there any pending applications with SOSE for the Whithorn Old Town Hall from any group or charity currently?
8. I request copies of any funding applications to SOSE other than what has been sent.

Clarification and addition to Question 8

- *4 August 2023 - SOSE received clarity on question 8. The revised request was for copies of any previous funding applications, or pending applications, or enquiries for funding/grants from Building Futures Galloway, (or BFG training ltd) or the Whithorn*

Trust.

- *16 August 2023 - the requester asked SOSE to include 'Whithorn Rebuild' to question 8.*

FOI RESPONSE

1. SOSE were made aware of a burden relating to The Whithorn Trust and All Roads Lead to Whithorn in advance of funding being provided. SOSE has not been informed of any legal investigation related to the funded project.
2. As per our FOI response to you on 20 July 2023 the SOSE grant award to Buildings Future Galloway was to be used to:
 - Purchase and refurbish Whithorn Old Town Hall into a larger and better placed museum for Whithorn
 - Development of a successful programme for young people to get into construction

We can confirm the Old Town Hall was acquired through the purchase of PLB Property Development Ltd on 18th July 2022. This information is in the public domain on Companies House website - <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/13570996/filing-history>

3. SOSE is not aware of any other funding applications pending for the Whithorn Old Town Hall by The Whithorn Trust or Whithorn Rebuild. SOSE funding for Whithorn Old Town Hall was awarded to Building Futures Galloway Limited.
4. The Old Town Hall was acquired through the purchase of PLB Property Development Ltd on 18th July 2022.
5. The SOSE grant of £250,000 was awarded to Building Futures Galloway Limited SC725146
6. The SOSE grant was awarded to Building Future Galloway Limited for the acquisition of the building, professional fees associated with the purchase, design and planning work and for material, equipment and direct works on the building. No specific funding was provided for trainees or employee wages. A total grant of £250,000 was awarded for the two financial years 2021/22 and 2022/23.
7. There are currently no pending applications with SOSE for the Whithorn Old Town Hall from any group or charity.
8. a) In regard to providing previous or pending funding applications from Building Futures Galloway, (or BFG training Ltd), The Whithorn Trust or Whithorn Rebuild, we apply FOISA section 33(1)(b) – substantial prejudice to commercial interests where disclosure would

(or would be likely to) prejudice substantially the commercial interests of any person, "Person" includes a public authority, company and partnership.

The use of this exemption requires SOSE to consider the public interest in both disclosing and not disclosing the information, and in this case, it has been decided the public interest is in withholding the information. SOSE would not want to prejudice substantially the commercial position of any organisation by disclosing information.

b) In regard to providing information on enquiries for funding/grants from Building Futures Galloway, (or BFG training Ltd), The Whithorn Trust or Whithorn Rebuild, we can confirm the following:

- Building Futures Galloway made an initial enquiry to SOSE about potential support for a boat house project. SOSE has not had any formal ask and has no financial details about the proposed project.
- The Whithorn Trust had approached SOSE for funding for the Old Town Hall building. This was never progressed due to the legal burden placed on the Old Town Hall relating to the Whithorn Trust.

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
<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info>
or for online appeals:
www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal

Regards,



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