

# 230613 (83) FOI Stranraer Waterfront Regeneration

**From:** [Freedom of Information](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Freedom of Information](#)  
**Subject:** Freedom of Information - Stranraer Waterfront Regeneration  
**Date:** 13 June 2023 15:31:00  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your freedom of information request of 18 May 2023. We are responding to you under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Your FOI Request

Under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act, I write to request the following information:

1. Copies of correspondence with the Scottish Government regarding the £6 million allocated to Stranraer for the waterfront regeneration.
2. Copies of all minutes where the £6 million allocated to Stranraer for the waterfront regeneration was discussed by SOSE and the Scottish Government

SOSE Response

1. Please find attached Appendix A – correspondences with Scottish Government regarding the Stranraer waterfront regeneration project
2. None.

We have aimed to release as much information to you as possible. However, some information has been withheld under FOISA exemption 38 (Personal information) and exemption 30 (Free and Frank Exchange of Views). Where information has been withheld in the attached appendix, it has been redacted.

Exemption 38(1)(b) - Personal Data

This exemption has been applied where personal data such as emails and names are included in the correspondences. SOSE is satisfied that this information constitutes 'personal data' and it would therefore be unlawful to disclose it. Exemption 38(1)(b) is an absolute exemption, so there is no requirement to consider the public interest in the application of this exemption.

Exemption 30(b)(ii) - free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation

This exemption was applied for some of the information in the correspondences because disclosure would, or would be likely to, inhibit substantially the free and frank provision of advice and exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation. This exemption is subject to the public interest test and SOSE recognises that there is a public interest in disclosing information to be open, transparent and accountable. However, in this instance there was a greater public interest in allowing SOSE private space to carry out its functions and to allow them to exchange free and frank views so that all options and views could be

considered. We therefore concluded that the public interest test lies in favour of upholding the exemption.

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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal)

Regards,  
SOSE Corporate Relations



[www.southofscotlandenterprise.com](http://www.southofscotlandenterprise.com)

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17 May 2021 13:49  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Stranraer - Manifesto Commitment

Happy for colleagues to join. Can [REDACTED] liaise with [REDACTED] please [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17 May 2021 13:45  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Stranraer - Manifesto Commitment

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] can coordinate our diaries at this end.

There are a few of our colleagues that we thought could join the discussion too unless you want a smaller group in the first instance?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17 May 2021 13:25  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Stranraer - Manifesto Commitment

Hi [REDACTED]

Where the £6m commitment sits in SG tbc. I've asked economy colleagues for a chat – but happy to pick that up in a wider meeting. Who is best placed to co-ordinate your diaries?

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16 May 2021 21:54  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Stranraer - Manifesto Commitment

[REDACTED]

Hope that you are well?

[REDACTED] had a quick call last week on the issue of funding support mentioned in the SNP manifesto for Stranraer. There was a view that you might be the best person to speak to in SG about where that funding may sit and how it might move forward once the new administration is in place.

[REDACTED] noted your suggestion of a catchup on wider place and regeneration issues – perhaps we could pick up Stranraer as part of that conversation?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[Redacted]

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**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 09 September 2021 16:39  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Stranraer

[Redacted]

Hello both

I think it would be useful to have a chat about Stranraer and the potential for developing a shared community led plan for Stranraer that pulls together the marina, Borderland place programme, the SMART prospectus and Greenports and how that might shape future investment?

Please let me know if you agree and we can try and get a date sorted, preferably sooner rather than later.

Regards

[Redacted]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 07 April 2022 15:13  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Stranraer

Hi [REDACTED]

I believe the response is due on Monday so we will include a general line about SOSE, DGC and SMART working together. And maybe useful for us to have a chat once you have had your meetings?

I spoke to [REDACTED] yesterday to give him a heads up that we are publishing the response to the town centre review next week.

Regards  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 April 2022 17:30  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Stranraer

[REDACTED]

We haven't managed to meet SMART yet due to availability of various partners – meeting is in the diary for end of the day on Tuesday, 12 April. Will that be too late for you to wait for feedback from that meeting?

SOSE funding - We are lining up revenue funding from this new FY budget to support the verbal commitments that SOSE made when we last met the local groups. I've also got a slot on Monday with colleagues from the Council who are starting to move forward, especially with an eye on Levelling Up funding opportunities.

I'm hopeful that as we come out of Covid restrictions (and through the end of year focus) that we will get more traction and action on the ground in Stranraer.

Happy to have a chat as well, if you need more detail.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[Redacted]  
From: [Redacted]  
Sent: 04 April 2022 16:32  
To: [Redacted]  
Subject: Stranraer

Hi [Redacted]

Hope you are well. We have received a letter from [Redacted] about Stranraer and the £6m manifesto commitment. Did you meet SMART and if so, any update on plans/progress? And a line to take on SOSE funding support?

Regards  
[Redacted]

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 12 October 2022 09:57  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Stranraer

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Thanks

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**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 11 October 2022 20:42  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Stranraer

[Redacted]

Glad you found the update useful. Happy for you to share with other SG colleagues.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



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**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 11 October 2022 12:57  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Stranraer

Hi all

[Redacted]



Thanks

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 11 October 2022 12:46  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Stranraer

**Caution: This email originated outside of the organisation. Think before you click on any links or open any attachments. Is it safe to do so? Always carry out appropriate checks or use the Report Message button if suspicious.**

Thanks all very comprehensive!  
Are you happy that I share that with SG colleagues with an interest in Stranraer?  
Regards

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 10 October 2022 22:04  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Stranraer

Update is as follows – hopefully not too long for your purposes:

#### Stranraer

[REDACTED] is supporting the project on behalf of SOSE and has from the outset made positive progress, connecting with all partners involved, helping to build relationships and trust, and being an active part in encouraging a collective view of moving forward. It helped that through her work as a senior development officer with Development Trusts Association Scotland she already had good relationships with people in SMART, Stranraer Development Trust, and [REDACTED] at Dumfries and Galloway Council (DGC).

In August 2022, Stranraer Development Trust received funding from SOSE for a community development and support role for an initial 6-9-month period until 31 March 2023. The post has been recruited and the postholder has been in place a couple of weeks and has very much hit the ground running. A Teams meet was set up with significant local stakeholders to introduce [REDACTED] the post holder which was very well received. [REDACTED] previously worked with [REDACTED] on aspects of the £100million regeneration programme there. She is Stranraer born and bred and has good links within the town but has also been away long enough to be neutral.

The role will act as a bridge between strategic stakeholders and local community groups within Stranraer and specifically focus on supporting and enabling planning within the local authority's place planning context and begin to support some initial project development and delivery: -

- A place plan for Stranraer which will form the basis of an investment/project implementation plan, led by the project officer and supported by the town team including [REDACTED]
- A comprehensive communications strategy around the Place Plan and for the future regeneration of Stranraer

- Management of stakeholder and community engagement and consultation as part of the place planning approach
- Progress appropriate research on innovative town centre regeneration opportunities
- Recruitment of a Project Officer role
- Progress of a Feasibility for a pump track - one of the key early projects identified by the community

### Place Planning

Future development opportunities will be explored as part of the Place Planning approach, supported by Dumfries & Galloway Council in conjunction with other RES partners.

The Place Plan approach will be key in terms of identifying future opportunities for the town whilst also ensuring a community led focus to regeneration. [REDACTED]

In production of the place plan and subsequent implementation, key elements will include

- Development and support to the SDT board that will develop their aspiration and capacity for sustainability and future delivery of projects as a community anchor organisation
- Building a collective network of community organisation support that will provide a strong foundation for future collaborative working.
- Development of a place plan and initial implementation plan with key deliverables identified for 2022/3 and onwards

In addition, the Stranraer Place Programme will include the following so that the findings are relevant to the Borderlands Place Programme Investment plan:

- Attract new businesses to the area
- Increase and retain the working age population
- Raise the standards of the physical environment in Stranraer
- Increase the number of people living in the town centre
- Deliver new jobs and opportunities for economic and social participation
- Increase the number of visitors who spend time and money in the area
- Improve the transport and connectivity challenges for Stranraer and its population
- Improve the housing availability for all ages to attract new businesses and residents to the area
- Identify new enterprise opportunities for Stranraer
- Greater community cohesion and pride in their community

The work is anticipated in two phases.

1. This is the first and critical phase of development work that was recommended to be started immediately to undertake vital community development and engagement activity as well as progress potential developments opportunities through the place planning approach.
2. The second phase will be the detailed implementation planning and delivery of identified projects. It is anticipated that a three-year post will be sought, and discussions have begun with the Development Trust and potential funders on how to achieve this. SOSE may potentially be asked to contribute as a match funder in this revenue support.

There are obviously key national funding opportunities such as Borderlands Place Programme, UK Govt Levelling Up Programme and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which support, fund and deliver these potential development opportunities.

### Recent Activity

The town team is now almost in place with [REDACTED] from DGC leading and the Town officers group is in place.

There are a number of consultations happening both to do with place (SWSA) and some external (Regional Land Use) which we are trying to link in with the place planning exercise to ensure the maximum breadth of impact s gained through existing consultation without over burdening the community with additional events.

The George Hotel is at detailed planning stage and the comms aspect of this has been well received opening up a new demographic and audience beyond those who have already engaged. [REDACTED] is the engagement officer and she will be delivering some of the wider comms regarding Place Planning alongside [REDACTED]

Lastly, as part of the place planning and future development the TSI have been engaged to deliver two open governance sessions to assist in capacity building for major stakeholders (the Dev Trust, Reuse Project, Millennium Centre and SWSA). The first session is aimed at supporting boards to be project delivery ready and the second one in January 2023 will be around recruiting new board members as the 'word' should have got out by then about what is happening for people to buy into.

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[REDACTED] have pulled this update together and are happy to answer any queries if you have them.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 05 October 2022 16:30  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Stranraer

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Hi [REDACTED]

Hope you are well. Has there been any progress on developing a plan for Stranraer?

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]