



LETTER SENT BY E-MAIL ONLY

2 October 2023

2023/24-033

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

Request

Please find below our response to your correspondence dated 6 September, in which you made the following request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002:

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.

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

Your request for information has been considered and the Scottish Police Authority is able to provide the following.

The Scottish Police Authority (SPA) is bound by the [Climate Change \(Scotland\) Act 2009](#) which creates a statutory framework for greenhouse gas emissions reductions in Scotland. Police Scotland reports compliance on SPA's behalf. The SPA/Police Scotland annual [Climate Change Reports](#) are published on the Sustainable Scotland Network website. The report is approved for submission to Scottish Government by SPA's Chief Executive.

Question 1 – There is an overall target to cut total emissions, including those from business travel. In 2021 the Authority approved Police Scotland's [Environmental Strategy](#) which aims to reduce carbon emissions by 35% within five years. Page 18 provides a travel hierarchy for staff to consider when considering each business journey. The hierarchy asks staff to always consider virtual working first, with air travel the last resort, only when other travel options (public transport i.e., bus and rail and private or hired car are not applicable).

Questions 2 and 3 – The Authority's Corporate team has further developed the hierarchy, researching similar approaches, including partner organisations. Senior management authorisation is required before any air travel is sanctioned.

[Appendix 1](#) highlights the policy intention to travel more sustainably for work and considerations for staff before they decide which form of travel they will take. Air travel is included in the policy and is only considered in exceptional circumstances and with senior management authorisation.

Question 4 and 5 – See [Appendix 2](#) for SPA air and rail travel from Edinburgh/Glasgow to south-east England destinations, for the most recent 12 month reporting period, April 2022 to March 2023.

Right to Review

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your request you can ask for a review. You must specify the reason for your dissatisfaction and submit your request by email to foi@spa.police.uk or by letter to Scottish Police Authority, 1 Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1DZ.

After review, if you remain dissatisfied, you can appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by letter to Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Commissioner's decision, you can appeal to the Court of Session, only if you think the law has not been applied correctly.

An anonymised version of this response will be posted to our [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.

Appendix 1



Appendix 2

SPA air travel - Number of flights from Edinburgh / Glasgow to London Airports within south-east England from April 2022 – March 23

Air journeys	April 2022 - Mar 2023
SPA Corporate	Return = 4 / Single = 1
SPA Forensic Services	Return = 24 / Single = 9
SPA Total	Return = 28 / Single = 10

SPA rail travel - Number of rail journeys from Edinburgh / Glasgow railway stations to London railway stations within south-east England from April 2022 – March 23

Rail journeys	April 2022 - Mar 2023
SPA Corporate	Return = 6 / Single = 3
SPA Forensic Services	Return = 4 / Single = 3
SPA Total	Return = 10 / Single = 6