

250731 (184) FOI Consultancy Services

From: [Freedom of Information](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Freedom of Information](#)
Subject: FOI Request - External Consultants, Costs, and Final Reports
Date: 31 July 2025 08:36:13
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 4 July 2025. We are responding to you under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 [FOISA].

FOI REQUEST (4 July 2025)

1. Consultancy Engagements

For each consultancy engagement commissioned or paid for during this period, please provide:

- a. Name of the consultant or consultancy firm
- b. Title or subject of the engagement
- c. Directorate, team, or unit that commissioned the work
- d. Total cost paid or contracted
- e. Start and end dates (or estimated delivery timeframe)
- f. Purpose of the engagement (e.g. economic strategy, due diligence, business case)
- g. Whether the engagement resulted in a published output, internal decision, or policy action
- h. Whether a post-engagement review, value-for-money assessment, or impact analysis was conducted

2. Final Deliverables

Please provide a copy of the final report, strategy, or document produced for each consultancy engagement listed, where available. Redactions may be applied as necessary under FOISA exemptions, but the documents are requested in the public interest as part of a review of consultancy spending across Scotland's public sector.

RESPONSE

1. Questions a) to i)

Information on consultancy engagements commissioned during the periods 21/22, 22/23 and 23/24 are contained in Appendix A attached. We have defined consultancy as those awards which are for commissioned pieces of consultancy work.

1. Question g)

Engagements can vary in relation to outputs depending on each separate consultancy commission. These may include publications, recommended decisions or other actions.

1. Question h)

We do not hold information on post engagement review, value for money assessment or impact analysis. We therefore apply Section 17 of FOISA.

2. Final Deliverables: We are unable to provide this information, and we apply Section 33(1)(b) of FOISA (commercial interests) as release of the information would – or would be likely to – prejudice substantially the commercial interests of the organisations involved.

SOSE considers that disclosure of the details of specific consultancy reports, strategies or documents would be likely to prejudice substantially the commercial interests of SOSE by allowing competitors and prospective consultants an insight into our business arrangements. Disclosure would also be likely to prejudice substantially the commercial interests of some of our consultants by exposing to competitors a key aspect of their business.

SOSE acknowledges the public interest in transparency and accountability, particularly with regard to scrutiny of public finances. However, we argue that there is a strong public interest in ensuring SOSE is able to achieve best value and maximise returns from the effective management of consultants. For that reason, we consider the public interest in withholding some of the requested information outweighs that in its disclosure.

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,
SOSE Corporate Relations

FOI@sose.scot



www.southofscotlandenterprise.com

Appendix A

Name of Consultancy firm	Title of engagement	Directorate	Start & End dates (or timeframe)	Purpose of engagement	Total cost
Atkins Ltd	SOSE Ebike Feasability Study	Place & Enterprise	1 month	SOSE Ebike Feasability Study	11,935
CEL Trading T/A Bold	Provision of creative design support	Place & Enterprise	2 months	Development of enterprising communities toolkit	14,400
Creatomatic Ltd	Inward investment website & inward investment Collaterel	Place & Enterprise	4 months	Inward investment website & inward investment Collaterel	27,168
Ernst & Young LLP	Various accounting & tax advice	Finance & Corporate Resources	12 months	Various accounting & tax advice	50,910
Local Transport Projects Ltd	Provision of a safety audit	Place & Enterprise	1 month	Provision of a safety audit	18,804
RSM UK Consulting LLP	Inward investmment data collection & report	Place & Enterprise	2 months	Inward investmment data collection & report	50,280
Ryden LLP	Targeted update to SOS property study	Place & Enterprise	3 months	Targeted update to SOS property study	6,840
Sleeping Giants Community Development CIC	Equalities Engagement project	Strategy P&E	12 weeks	Design & deliver an approach to engagement on SOSE's action plan	12,550
Social Value Lab	Development of a SOSE communities social impact measurement framework	Place & Enterprise	4 months	Development of a SOSE communities social impact measurement framework	11,970
Southern Uplands Partnerships Services Ltd	Delivery of programme of engagement to inform the development of the Action Plan of	Strategy P&E	3 months	Deliver a programme of engagement to inform development of SOSE action plan	23,372
Southern Uplands Partnerships Services Ltd	SOSE Action Plan Business Breakfasts Organisation	Strategy P&E	2 months	SOSE Action Plan organisation & delivery business breakfasts	3,600
Southern Uplands Partnerships Services Ltd	SOSE Action Plan events	Strategy P&E	1 month	Reorganisation and delivery of engagement events for SOSE engagement tour	10,314
Tourism Enterprise and Management Ltd T/A TEAM Tourism Consulting	Bed-stock audit for South of Scotland	Place & Enterprise	4 months	Bed-stock audit for South of Scotland	54,420
User and Carer Involvement (UCI)	Produce Easy Read version of Regional Economic Strategy	Strategy P&E	3 Weeks	Produce Easy Read version of Regional Economic Strategy	320
Market and Opinion Research International Ltd T/A Ipsos MORI	Regional Analysis of DEBS survey 2021	Strategy P&E	1 month	Regional analysis of DEBS survey	10,980
PA Advocacy Ltd	MSPs Survey	Strategy P&E	12 months	Core MSPs survey questionnaire	8,100

Scottish Business Network	Consultancy NT Business development	Net Zero	9 Months	Delivery of a partnership conference	9,600
SAC Commercial Ltd T/A SAC consulting	Rural Leadership Programme	Strategy P&E	12 months	Support SOS rural leadership programme	38,393
Space Intelligence Ltd	Design of South of Scotland Natural Cap Measur App	Strategy P&E	8 months	Deign of South of Scotland natural capital measurement approach	5,870
Weave Consult	Textile Training requirements	Place & Enterprise	1 month	Developing a sustainable future	12,700
AECOM Limited	Screening Reports for Regional Economic Plan	Strategy P&E	3 days	Expert advice on the need to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the emerging SOS Regional Economic Strategy	1,584
					384,111

Name of Consultancy firm	Title of engagement	Directorate	Start & End dates (o	Purpose of engagement	Total cost
Beamans Ltd T/A Beamans Management Consultants	Job Evaluation Training	Finance & Corporate Resources	6 months	Job Evaluation Training	3,000
Capgemini UK PLC	Development & Delivery of a Regional Net Zero Investment Prospectus	Net Zero	8 weeks	Development & Delivery of a Regional Net Zero Investment	59,999
Capgemini UK PLC	Plan, design and deliver a purpose-driven and highly collaborative event	Finance & Corporate Resources	1 month	Plan, design and deliver a purpose-driven and highly collaborative	21,600
Catherine Evans t/a Cefn Consulting	Customer experience project- appraisal process review work	Net Zero	6 months	Provision of expert advice	2,099
CEL Trading T/A Bold	Provision of creative design support (final installment)	Place & Enterprise	2 months	Development of enterprising communities toolkit	960
Ernst & Young LLP	Various accounting & tax advice	Finance & Corporate Resources	12 months	Various accounting & tax advice	93,964
GEP Environmental Limited	Completion of Building Energy Efficiency, Facilities & Waste Management & IT	Finance & Corporate Resources	1 month	Data Analysis, Site Audit and Report Write Up	4,536
GW Partners Ltd T/A Metta	PROVISION OF SERVICES TO DEVELOP AN INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM FOR SOUTH OF SCOLAND ENTERPRISE	Net Zero	1.5 months	PROVISION OF SERVICES TO DEVELOP AN INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM	26,400
Ideagen Gael	Risk reporting training - data load & consultancy	Finance & Corporate Resources	1 month	Risk reporting training - data load & consultancy	253
Ideagen Gael	Pentana Risk Training	Finance & Corporate Resources	1 month	Risk reporting training - data load & consultancy	1,522
Land Use Consultants Ltd	production of an infographic for Regional Land Use	Strategy P&E	4 months	Support stakeholder engagement producing an infographic for RLUP	2,399
Land Use Consultants Ltd	Regional Land Use Partnership- additional co-ordination and support	Net Zero	2 months	Support for Regional Land Use Partnership - events	8,994
Montagu Evans LLP	SOSE Property portfolio valuation 31.3.22	Finance & Corporate Resources	12 months	SOSE asset valuation	4,800
NewbyDavies Ltd T/A Come Alive UK	Mental health awareness training	Finance & Corporate Resources	12 months	Mental health awareness training for all SOSE staff	8,640
Ryden LLP	Targeted update to SOS property study	Place & Enterprise	3 months	Targeted update to SOS property study	21,180

Scottish Borders Council	Actuarial services to prepare year-end pension results	Finance & Corporate Resources	6 months	Actuarial services to prepare year-end pension results	4,305
Social Value Lab	Census Report	Strategy P&E	2 months	Bespoke SOS census key fact sheet & report with SOS data tables of national census	4,500
Southern Uplands Partnerships Services Ltd	Consultancy support-Phase 2 South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership	Net Zero	7 months	Support for stakeholder engagement for RLUP	16,950
User and Carer Involvement (UCI)	Produce Easy Read version of SOSE Action Plan	Strategy P&E	10-14 days	Produce Easy Read version of SOSE Action Plan	350
					286,450

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Name of Consultancy firm	Title of engagement	Directorate	Start & End dates (or timeframe)	Purpose of engagement	Total cost
3 Keel Group Ltd	LENs Feasability Study	Net Zero	Feb - March 2024	scoping report of landscape demand interests in the Scottish Borders	9,995
4-Consulting	Professional Fees for Final Business Case	Place & Enterprise	completed over a 4 week	Update FBC and costs benefit analysis	3,840
AstroAgency Limited	Support to develop SOSE's space strategy	Place & Enterprise	3 - 5 months	Support to develop SOSE's space strategy	31,200
AtkinsRealis Ltd	Topographical Survey	Place & Enterprise	1 month	Topographical Survey	2,603
Beamans Ltd T/A Beamans Management Consultants	Job Evaluation Training	Finance & Corporate Resources	6 months	Job Evaluation Training	534
Bicycle Association of Great Britain Limited (The)	Cycling Industry Report and Bespoke Analysis and analytical interpretation	Strategy P&E	1 month	Cycling report - Data to support Network review	2,400
British Ports Association	Gateways for Growth 2023 Draft	Strategy P&E	1 month	Delivery of report profiling the Scottish ports industry	2,400
Capgemini UK PLC	Development & Delivery of a Regional Net Zero Investment Prospectus	Net Zero	8 weeks	Development & Delivery of a Regional Net Zero Investment Prospectus	3,229
Capgemini UK PLC	Plan, design and deliver a purpose-driven and highly collaborative event	Finance & Corporate Resources	1 month	Plan, design and deliver a purpose-driven and highly collaborative event	8,400
Clinkscale Coaching Limited	Executive Coaching Sessions	Finance & Corporate Resources	1 month	Executive Coaching Sessions	936
Cochran Ltd	Feasability report & high level design of Hydrogen boiler implementation	Net Zero	1 month	Feasability report & high level design of Hydrogen boiler implementation	3,240
DRH AMRE Consultants Limited	Carbon Literacy Training	Net Zero	3 months	Carbon Literacy Training	3,655
Future Proof Learning Ltd	Specialised HR consultancy	Finance & Corporate Resources	2 months	Design content and materials for fair work workshop	4,560
HKZ Services Ltd T/A Vector Transport Consultancy	Traffic assessment of potential Mountain Bike Park in Walkerburn	Place & Enterprise	1 month	Traffic assessment of potential Mountain Bike Park in Walkerburn	8,712
Ideagen Gael	Risk reporting training - data load & consultancy	Finance & Corporate Resources	1 month	Risk reporting training - data load & consultancy	84

Inspired Community Trust Ltd T/A The Usual Place	Consultancy services on accessibility improvements and inclusion considerations	Strategy P&E	2 months	Consultancy services on accessibility improvements and inclusion considerations	1,750
Julie Nock	Consultancy support	Strategy P&E	1 month	Support to help aid robustness & planning of SOSE Summer Tour	1,600
Land Use Consultants Ltd	Development of Draft RLUP Framework	Net Zero	12 months	Support to develop Phase 2 of the Regional Land Use Framework	40,229
Mabbett & Associates Ltd	Lockerbie Ice Rink Feasibility Study Scoping	Place & Enterprise	3 days	Lockerbie ice rink feasibility study scoping	1,342
Nicholas Sparks	ESSCG Skills Planning Questionnaire	Strategy P&E	1 month	ESSCG skills planning questionnaire	1,950
Ray Black Consulting Ltd	Enterprise workshop sessions	Net Zero	1 month	Provision of workshop enterprise sessions	5,760
Sandy Kennedy t/a Castlebank & Coll Limited	Provision of entrepreneurship consultancy support	Net Zero	4 months	Provision of entrepreneurship consultancy support	9,000
Scottish Agricultural Society Ltd	Farm Data Co-operative Pilot Project	Net Zero	1.5 months	Support a pilot development of a farm data coop in SOS	1,200
Scottish Agricultural Society Ltd	Farm Data Co-operative Pilot Project	Net Zero	1.5 months	scoping report of a representative group of farm enterprises in SOS	6,000
Scottish Borders Council	Contributions to Tourism Strategy Consultation	Strategy P&E	1 month	Contribution to SOS tourism strategy carried out by third party	4,851
Scottish Borders Council	Feasibility work for mountain bike project	Place & Enterprise	5 months	Structural inspection & reporting May & June 23	6,678
Scottish Borders Council	Feasibility work for mountain bike project	Place & Enterprise	5 months	MBIC-Structural Inspection & Reporting month 3,4+5 (Goodsons)	1,782
Scottish Chambers of Commerce	Scottish CCBuilding a realistic + dynamic plan for 2023	Strategy P&E	3 months	Build a business plan for SB CC and DG CC	6,000
Select Contracts Holdings Inc.	Consultancy Services	Place & Enterprise	1 month	Review & allocate a financial contribution to potential participants for the Adventure Bike Park project in Innerleithen	5,000
Select Contracts Holdings Inc.	Land Survey for Bike Park	Place & Enterprise	1 month	Land survey for bike park in Walkerburn	1,500
Sleeping Giants Community Development CIC	Training sessions with SOSE Youth advisory forum	Strategy P&E	4 months	Creation & delivery of training sessions for members of SOSE YAF	1,008

SLR Consulting Ltd	Baseline research Stage of Stranraer visitor site	Strategy P&E	3 months	Pre-feasibility study for proposed devlopment of Stranraer visitro attraction	12,000
SLR Consulting Ltd	Final feasabilty study- March 2024	Strategy P&E	3 months	Pre-feasibility study for proposed devlopment of Stranraer visitro attraction	18,000
Smart Vision Europe Ltd	IBM SPSS Subscription & Support -12 months	Strategy P&E	12 months	Provide access to IBM SSPS statistics for social science analysis	1,668
Social Enterprise Academy	Design & Delivery of Facilitation Skills Session	Place & Enterprise	1 day	Design & deliver a brief intervention facilitation traiing session for employees	1,950
Sonas Energy Ltd	Feasability report	Net Zero	1 month	Feasibility report into integration of hydrogen usage on production site	2,160
Southern Uplands Partnerships Services Ltd	Develop RLUP framework phase 2	Net Zero	12 months	Develop RLUP framework phase 2	36,000
Southern Uplands Partnerships Services Ltd	Development of RLUF final phase	Net Zero	1 month	Consultancy support- additional in-person events Jan 2024	1,638
Star Refrigeration Ltd	Feasibility report-Farne Salmon, DR Colin & Eyemouth freezers	Net Zero	12 month contract	Feasibility report and high level design of heat recovery opportunities	39,600
The Glasgow School of Art	GSA Craft Scaler	Strategy P&E	1 month	Design, initiate & foster a bespoke scaling model	10,000
tmc3 Limited	Business Continuity workshop and training excercise	Finance & Corporate Resources	1 month	Business continuity workshop & training	6,000
Turner & Townsend Project Management Limited	Consultancy support for Eyemouth Harbour Trust Development	Place & Enterprise	4 months	Eyemouth Harbour Trust development	23,157
Volans Ventures Ltd	Agricultural workshop	Net Zero	1 day	Agricultural workshop - future economy	5,271
Volans Ventures Ltd	Scottish Borders W/Shop	Net Zero	1/2 day	Agricultural workshop - route to Net Zero	3,000
Volans Ventures Ltd	Workshop in Kelso re region's route to NetZero	Net Zero	1/2 day	Agricultural workshop - route to Net Zero	8,640
Wellbeing Economy Alliance Scotland	Consultancy services for developing performance measurement framework for the REP	Strategy P&E	7 Months	Developing performance measuring framework for REP	3,000
Wellbeing Economy Alliance Scotland	Support for South of Scotland REP in developing Cornerstone Indicators	Strategy P&E	2 months	Developing Cornerstone indicators for REP	3,000

YouthBorders	Consultancy support for Development of Youth Forum	Strategy P&E	6 months	Consultancy support for Development of Youth Forum	1,976
Market and Opinion Research International Ltd T/A Ipsos MORI	Market & opinion research - SOSE export survey	Strategy P&E	1 month	Market & opinion research - SOSE export survey	36,000
RPS Consulting Services	Full GI & SI surveys of Cargenbridge	Place & Enterprise	2 months	Full GI & SI surveys of Cargenbridge	32,500
Solway Ecology (Consulting) Ltd T/A Solway Ecology	Habitat & protected species survey at Cargenbridge	Place & Enterprise	1 month	Habitat & protected species survey at Cargenbridge	1,117
					428,116