

# Scottish Government submission of 30 May 2022

## PE1889/E: Financial support for self-employed people in the travel industry

During the Omicron phase of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Scottish Government provided up to £375m of business support funding. In line with the commitment to sustainable and inclusive growth and the Coronavirus (COVID-19): fair work statement, the Scottish Government [announced on 10 February 2022](#) details of £3.5m support funding specifically for outbound travel businesses in Scotland (including self employed) to help them recover from the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

Scottish Government officials worked closely with industry stakeholders to agree eligibility criteria, funding breakdown and validation requirements to ensure funding was targeted at businesses most in need. During these discussions further funding of £2.4m was agreed, taking the total support available to £5.9m.

On 7 March 2022 guidance, including eligibility criteria, was published on the Find Business Support website and the Scottish Government website. The fund was also promoted on Scottish Government social media channels.

The Outbound Travel Support Fund opened to applications on 10 March 2022 and closed on 24 March 2022. The fund provided support to outbound tour operators, travel agents and travel management companies that operate from owned/rented premises with a non-domestic rates account or those who are self-employed with a unique tax reference.

The fund provided support with a one-off payment of:

- £3,950 for self-employed/sole-trader outbound travel agents
- £12,000 for premises which have a rateable value of up to and including £18,000
- £30,000 for premises which have a rateable value of £18,001 or above

The fund was promoted by registered trade body groups such as ABTA, SPAA and BTA and local authority Chambers of Commerce.

NEC, a third party service provider, processed completed applications, carried out validation checks and made payments to eligible applicants by 31 March 2022.