



My Ref: FOI 6013
Enquiries to: Information Requests
E-Mail: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

Dear Requester,

Re: Request for Information – Freedom of Information Act 2000

I wish to confirm that the council has completed its search for the information which you requested.

The information requested and our findings are as follows: -

I am requesting information on the last 'Idea validation scheme' aimed at start ups but with only one period to claim expenses How many start ups opted for £2000 cash support How much of this support was taken up by each ie: Key Takeaway Ltd - £500/£2000 When the payments were made to Trove Ventures (the company running the other £5000 'support' package) What they needed to do in order to be be paid out - was it retrospective or did they reimburse - if so how and when

Answer:

Regarding the Idea Validation Grants pilot undertaken by TECH SY between June 2024 – March 2025:

- 7 businesses were awarded direct financial grants. Of the 7, 4 claimed the full grant allocation.
- 82% of the total grant amount awarded was paid to businesses via the claim process (£14,290.48 paid vs £17,500.00 awarded)
- Due to the time limited nature of the funding from South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority for TECH SY, there was a hard end date to the business support provision and so a hard end date to the reclaim period which was communicated consistently to beneficiaries
- The payment process for Trove Ventures for their support to founders was:
 - Payments issued in 3 parts per support – Roughly this was one payment per month for each support which lasted 3-4 months each.
 - Payments were only issued upon receipt of contractually required reports produced by Trove Ventures.
 - Monthly reports were required as part of Trove's contract, providing updates on the support provided to each founder, outlining plans for validation with each founder and the progress they have made towards it throughout the support, as well as identifying each business' key barriers and next steps. Trove was also required to deliver a final report for each support provided following their conclusion, including a completed roadmap of the validation process, assessment of their progress and next steps founders should take next to further advance their ideas past the validation

stage and early traction, as well as updated traction calculator scores. They also were required to deliver a final programme report.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact Information Requests Via email.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way the Directorate has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. Please clearly mark your correspondence 'Complaint' and address it to:

Barnsley MBC
Information Requests Team
PO Box 634
Barnsley
S70 9GG
email: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: -

Customer Services Team
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Email: <http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

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