

FOI 3163

4th July 2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Governance & Responsibility

Question 1. Do you have a dedicated person or team responsible for solar energy investment and/or sustainability energy initiatives within your organisation?

If so, please provide their role/title (personal names are not required).

Response:

Estates Energy Manager

Current Solar Deployment

Question 2. How many solar panel installations (PV systems) do you currently operate across your estate?

A) What is the total installed capacity of these systems (in kWp)?

Response:

The total capacity of these systems are 1,300,457 kWp.

B) What proportion of your organisation's energy usage is currently provided by solar generation?

Response:

SHSCT has the potential to generate 5% of its overall energy (electricity) demand from solar generation.

Investment & Strategy

Question 3. Does your organisation have a documented investment strategy for expanding the use of solar panels or increasing on-site renewable energy generation?

If so, please provide a copy of or link to the relevant strategy or plan (or summarise key points if not published).

Response:

We have a draft sustainability strategy (not published) which set out the Trust aspirations in relation to renewable solar energy over the next 5 years. This is subject to annual funding being available

Solar and Net Zero Commitments

Question 4. Does solar energy form part of your organisation's Net Zero / Carbon Reduction Strategy?

If yes, how is progress against this strategy communicated to the public (e.g. via website, reports, dashboards, etc.)?

Response:

Yes, however this is in the early stages of development and dashboards being currently developed.

Future Plans

Question 5. Are there any planned solar panel projects or expansions within the next 3 years? If yes, please provide high-level details (e.g. number of sites, scale of deployment, approximate timescales).

A) Have you conducted any feasibility studies on increasing solar capacity in the past 3 years? If so, can these be shared?

Response:

Yes, however these are at early stages and not ready to be shared

Procurement & Partnerships

Question 6. Does your organisation currently use any third-party companies or frameworks to deliver solar energy solutions or manage installations? If yes, which ones?

Response:

Yes, SHSCT use Crown Commercial Frameworks and SPS frameworks to deliver energy solutions and manage installations.

A) Are there any upcoming procurement exercises planned relating to solar energy or wider renewable energy solutions?

Response:

Not as of yet as there has been no funding identified in 25/26

Battery Storage

Question 7. Do you currently use battery storage alongside your solar panels? Are there plans to invest in battery storage in future?

Response:

We are planning to progress feasibilities into this area on applicable sites in the near future.

Funding

Question 8. Has your organisation accessed or applied for any external funding to support solar energy projects (e.g. SALIX, Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, LEP funding)?

Response:

No

Barriers

Question 9. What are the main barriers your organisation faces to further adoption of solar energy (e.g. funding, planning restrictions, roof suitability, internal resource)?

Response:

The main barriers SHSCT faces is funding, planning restrictions, roof suitability.

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END