



**TRANSPORT  
SCOTLAND**  
CÒMHDHAIL ALBA

# **Electronic purchasing cards expenditure £500 and above**

**Disclosures for the financial  
years 2019-20 and 2018-19**

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## Introduction

The Scottish Government now publishes details of Electronic Procurement (EPC) card transactions with a value in excess of £500 on an annual basis. This is an extension of the monthly review and publication of items of expenditure over £25,000.

Transport Scotland, as an Agency of the Scottish Government, similarly reviews details of items of expenditure over £25,000 prior to publication on a monthly basis, and, in order to maintain consistency with core Scottish Government, has also extended this exercise to include details, on an annual basis, of all Agency Electronic Purchasing transactions with a value of £500 and above. In addition, the same information is published retrospectively for the previous financial year.

## Transport Scotland EPC cards

A total of twelve staff within Transport Scotland held EPC cards in the year 2019-20 across five directorates. Each directorate retains detailed records of the staff who have responsibility to utilise, supervise and authorise expenditure on these cards. This information is reviewed on a quarterly basis along with detailed transactions records to monitor compliance with procedure and ensure propriety and transparency.

The staff with responsibility for these cards are required, on a quarterly basis, to confirm they have reviewed and are familiar with the guidance and procedures for the use of these cards. They are also required to ensure that any changes to staff responsibilities are reported immediately to relevant authorities. Scottish Government issue hierarchy requests to every card controller on record to confirm details held on file and inform of any amendments.

All staff keep detailed electronic transactions logs, using the Smart Data On Line (SDOL) recording system.

## Details of expenditure

The total of transactions in year 2019-20, which exceeded £500 was £178,799 (2018-19: £131,563). Much of this expenditure was for job related and professional training courses, professional subscription fees and purchase of small equipment, however the increase in use of the EPC is a consequence of adopting the Scottish Government policy of moving more of its expenditure to EPC where appropriate and where the supplier accepts this payment method. This change in approach extends to one-off or annual payments where the use of the EPC cards avoids the administrative costs of supplier set up within the Accounts Payable system. Expenditure for which agreement has been reached to continue to move to the EPC method of payment includes conferences, external training payments and professional subscriptions.

The EPC system fully supports the Ministerial commitment to pay our suppliers within 10 working days and rigorous authorisation and auditing arrangements continue to be enforced to monitor their use.



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Published by Transport Scotland, January 2021

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