

Mark Walker  
Solidarity Trade Union  
via whatdotheyknow.com

Date: 28th October 2009  
Our Ref: FOI 00837/102/CSL  
Your Ref:

**Please contact: Catherine Larkin**  
**Contact Number: 0151 934 3286**  
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Dear Mr Walker

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

I write with reference to your Freedom of Information request dated 9<sup>th</sup> October 2009. You asked for the following:-

*1. Has your authority ever found a member of the BNP or any other political Party guilty of a disciplinary offence related to their Party membership in the last three years? If so please give information as to when and how many.*

Our records show that no schools have disciplined a member of the BNP within the last three years and neither has a centrally located Children's Services member of staff been disciplined related to their membership of the BNP or related to membership of any other political party.

*2. Has any parent complained to you regarding the Party membership of any employee or the expression of political views within school classrooms under your authority during the last three years?*

No complaints have been received by Children's Services department regarding the party membership of any employee, or complaints received relating to the expression of political views within school classrooms in Sefton during the last 3 years.

*3. What safeguards do you currently have in place to prevent members of any political Party promoting their views within schools?*

The code of conduct deals with politically restricted posts. Essentially any post paid at SCP 44 (currently £ 37,206 on the National grading spine) is politically restricted and some posts below this level are restricted too, depending upon the duties. **This does not apply to teachers and lecturers.** However, if it were deemed that a teacher was using their position to espouse their views within schools, this would be dealt with under disciplinary procedures.

Section 17 (7) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act states that public authorities must provide applicants with particulars of how they may complain about the handling of their request for information should they wish to. Any such complaint should be directed to Richard Roscoe, Data



Protection and Information Security Officer, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Merton House, Stanley Road, Bootle, L20 3JA. Should you choose to request a review of the decision taken and are dissatisfied following the authority's review, you are entitled under Section 17 (7) (b) of the Act to apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision notice.

Further information can be found at:-

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
Telephone: 01625 545700

[www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

**Catherine Larkin**  
**RESEARCH AND INFORMATION MANAGER**