



Marlon Campbell
Via Email
request-27339-20f5dc22@whatdotheyknow.com

**Communities, Law &
Governance**
Direct Line – 020 7525 3441
Fax – 020 7525 7675
accessinfo@southwark.gov.uk

19 March 2010

Dear Mr Campbell

Re: Your appeal Ref No. 4705(0) against request for information: Ref No. 4705

The appeal you made against our original response to your request for information Ref 4705 has been successful and the information requested is enclosed in the form of an attachment.

Although your appeal was successful and we are providing the information, collating the same did in fact exceed the 'prescribed limit' of £450 set for local authorities under the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the same.

In your request for an internal review you state that the council's original response failed to comply with the duty, set out in section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which requires all public authorities to provide reasonable advice and assistance to applicants. We can confirm that the council always endeavours to comply with this obligation. However as our original response was that we estimated providing the information would exceed the 'prescribed limit' of £450 we accept that additional assistance could have been provided to help you determine whether it was possible to reframe your request so that it fell within that limit. We can only apologise for this omission.

Finally I can confirm that we have no 'reporting information' relating to the council's Freedom of Information activity for the past 3 years. However, as explained in our original response we are, within the next few months, implementing a new database that will in future enable us to provide reports detailing Freedom of Information data. This data will be published in accordance with the guidance issued to local authorities in July 2009 by the Ministry of Justice.

I hope the above is to your satisfaction, however should you still have any queries or concerns then please contact us using the above details.

Further information on the *Freedom of Information Act* is available through the Information Commissioner at the:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House, Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700
Internet: www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Ian Mark
Senior Lawyer
Communities, Law & Governance