

Enquiries to: Information Team
Our Ref: FOI 688538



**Liverpool
City Council**

request-572174-08eae2ca@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr Jacobs

Freedom of Information Request 688538

Thank you for your recent request received 2 May 2019. Your request was actioned under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in which you requested the following information –

1/ Please supply all meeting that took place with Mr Brian Wong and Cllr Gary Millar, from 2014 until now April 2019.

2/ In July 2017 did Cllr Millar contact anyone in Canada or talk in person or text/ phone with Mr Brian Wong with regards to Liverpool Chinatown in Canada or to Canada as there is a record of data on some phones that have come to light.

3/ Could Cllr Gary Millar please explain how as a councillor he could manage to find £2.3million to buy and set up 'Parr Street Studio's' and a Bar along with a city centre hotel?

4/ Did the LCC help in any way with planning and has all business rates and other fees all up to date on these businesses in the city centre?

5/ Could Gary Millar please state as to where this cash had come from as he was just a poor public servant (Councillor) at the time?

Response:

Liverpool City Council would advise as follows –

1. Councillor Millar has confirmed that the only meeting in his diary in the period highlighted in this question and which relates directly to Brian Wong took place on Friday 05/04/2019. At that meeting Councillor Millar met with Brian Wong and Invest Liverpool to discuss repairs to Chinese Friendship Arch and the Liverpool-Shanghai 20th Anniversary Celebrations. Councillor Millar has also highlighted that due to Brian Wong's status as one of the Deputy Lieutenants of Merseyside and as one of the founding members and former Chief Executive of the Liverpool Chinatown Business Association their paths may have crossed incidentally at civic events. Councillor Millar has also confirmed has never had a business relationship with Mr Wong.
2. Councillor Millar was on vacation in Canada in July 2017. He contacted friends living in Toronto in order to meet for dinner during that trip. There would have been absolutely no reason for discussions over that dinner or at any time in Canada about Brian Wong or about Liverpool Chinatown. Furthermore, neither Councillor Millar or any representative of the City Council had any involvement whatsoever in encouraging individuals to invest in this project. Such issues are a matter between the developer and the individual investors. Liverpool City Council advises anyone who believes their investment has been lost due to illegal activities to report it to the appropriate authorities.
3. This question is not a valid request under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. However, Councillor Millar has advised that the purchase of Parr Street Studios took place 2 years before Mr Millar became Councillor Millar. His co-ownership of this

Liverpool City Council Information Team
Cunard Building, Water Street, Liverpool, L3 1DS
E: informationrequests@liverpool.gov.uk

building is a private matter.

4. Relating to “planning” it is unclear what the question implies. However, Councillor Millar confirms that any tenant or business seeking planning or license approval would have been dealt with by the appropriate authority and all appropriate fees would have been paid. All “Business Rates” are up to date.
5. This question is not a valid request under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

This concludes our response.

The City Council will consider appeals, referrals or complaints in respect of your Freedom of Information Act 2000 and you must submit these in writing to Informationrequests@liverpool.gov.uk within 28 days of receiving your response. The matter will be dealt with by an officer who was not previously involved with the response and we will look to provide a response within 40 days.

If you remain dissatisfied you may also apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision about whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Information Commissioner’s website is www.ico.gov.uk and the postal address and telephone numbers are:- Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 123 1113. Email – mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk (they advise that their email is not secure)

I trust this information satisfies your enquiry.

Yours sincerely

A Lewis

Angela Lewis
Information Team