

Geoff Gray
Information Management Team
Maurice Bishop House
17 Reading Lane
Hackney, London
E8 1HH

Tel: 020 8356 2683
geoff.gray@hackney.gov.uk

CAS-652893-J09H0N

Ms Rebecca Hemsley

[request-167859-
xxx](#)

Friday, 14 February 2014

Dear Ms Hemsley,

Re: Internal Review

Thank you for your email of 16 October 2013 addressed to Ben Wood. I am sorry to hear you were not satisfied with the response to your Freedom of Information request. Mr Wood has passed your email onto me to conduct an Internal Review.

FOI received in the Council: 08 July 2013

Please could you send me a copy of the Barratt report into child abuse in hackney published in January 1998

Please outline what other information you hold on Barratt report

Response sent: 04 October 2013

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 directs local authorities to confirm whether or not requested information is held. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held.

Hackney holds hard copies of the Barratt Report (full title - The Report of the 1997 Inquiry into "The Trotter Affair"). Copies held are listed on our on-line catalogue which can be found at: www.hackney.gov.uk/c-archives-webcat.htm. Type "Barratt" in the simple search option.

Please note copies of the report are for reference only and can be accessed by visiting Hackney's public reading room facility. Details of location and opening hours

are available at our website. <http://www.hackney.gov.uk/ca-archives-visiting.htm>
We can provide photocopies of documents at a charge of £0.50 a page plus an additional charge for postage and package. The Barratt Report has 149 pages.

The British Library's on-line catalogue is at: explore.bl.uk. The report can also be viewed in person in the British Library reference library.

I also confirm that other information Hackney holds on the Barratt report is not in an easily retrievable format nor is there an automated mechanism that would allow us to easily collate the required data.

The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 has set the appropriate limit as £450 based on a charge at £25 per hour.

Section 12 of the Act states that the Council is not obliged to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the costs of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

The appropriate limit is represented by the estimated cost of one person spending 2½ working days in determining whether the Council holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information requested. Consequently the Council is not obliged to respond to your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Email to Ben Wood sent: 16 October 2013

I have received your reply, at which I am appalled.

I too would like Hackney Borough Council to be as helpful as they can on this as well but the situation we are in now is that 4 months have gone by since my legitimate request and Hackney Borough Council are still prevaricating, having already failed to comply with the law. I have been excessively patient so far.

Furthermore Hackney Borough Council are prevaricating over, as far as I can tell over a very comparatively tiny amount of money for the council WHEN Hackney Borough Council have been criticised in this very report that I am asking for, for failing to suspend someone who went on to commit more sexual abuse, against children.

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE, HACKNEY COUNCILS FAULT AND YOU ARE ARGUING ABOUT A FEW QUID? Please think about that.

Do you not think that that amount of money is money well spent (not that it is money anyway , merely time for your employees) in carrying out your duty of care to the people abused who should have been cared for properly by Hackney Borough Council in the first place? So that now at last they can begin to learn the truth and start the healing process?

How do you think the victims feel when they see what Hackney is doing after having caused their suffering?

BUT to top it all, Hackney cannot by law, even charge redaction fees to me, so Hackney Councils reasons for not sending it to me are invalid.

Please could you send me the report, in digital format, by email to this address, redacted if necessary, as soon as possible and I would advise you to consider it money well spent in your duty to try and alleviate the horrible suffering that Hackney Borough Council have caused, suffering that can never be taken away, merely eased.

If the Council or any of its employees had anything about them they would recognise that they have a duty to the victims to publish this also in your publication scheme so it is available on your website

Firstly I would like to explain the delay in providing you with the response. The Council received and logged your request on 08 July 2013, but due to an oversight it was not looked at by Children and Young People's Services (CYPS) until 10 September 2013. I can only apologise for this delay, the Council does receive around 150 FOI requests per month and occasionally and unfortunately we can miss the odd one.

Regarding the Barrett Report, the Council feels that, under section 21 of the FOI Act, Information accessible to applicant by other means, it is already possible for the general public to access the Barratt Report at the Hackney Archives or via the British Library.

Hackney Archives

The Hackney Archives are there for any member of the public to view and copy documents which are of interest. To copy any documents does have a cost of 50p per page as outlined above. This is a standard which applies to every member of the public.

Copies of the report are available to the public for reference only and can be accessed by visiting Hackney's public reading room facility. Details of location and opening hours are available at our website. <http://www.hackney.gov.uk/ca-archives-visiting.htm>

We can provide photocopies of documents at a charge of £0.50 a page plus an additional charge for postage and package. The Barratt Report has 149 pages.

British Library

The British Library is a well known point of call for researchers. Their website gives excellent and clear guidance on how to access any of the collection: www.bl.uk

The British Library can supply a download or a hard copy within 4 days of ordering for a charge of about £26.40. Alternatively you can use the BL Reading rooms after

registering as a reader.

<http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/inrrooms/stp/register/stpregister.html>

In our letter to you dated 04 October 2013, we stated that the other information we hold on the Barratt Report would have to be exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act, Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit.

I am happy to tell you that this decision has been reversed and you will shortly be forwarded the following information:

- Newspaper clippings
- Press Statements
- Correspondence between Barratt and Council employees (with all personal information redacted)

The reason for this is the initial search into documents held on the Barratt Report brought up information which falls outside the scope of your request. Reviewing the findings of this search it was realised that the majority is irrelevant to your request.

The documents outlined above are currently being collated and will be forwarded to you in the coming weeks. Upon receipt of these documents we hope you will find your recent FOI request (CAS 731537-C63B6X, logged on the 29th January 2014), to also be complete.

Please note the information is still covered by copyright legislation. You are not authorised to re-use this information for commercial or research purposes as defined by the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005. If you do wish to re-use this information please contact the Information Governance Team, 3rd Floor, Maurice Bishop House, Reading Lane, London, E8 1HH.

If you are still not satisfied following the Internal Review, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner. He can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700

www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Geoff Gray
Corporate Information and Knowledge Manager