



South Tyneside Council

John Robertson
request-173142-47ddf614@whatdotheyknow.com

Date: 13th September 2013
Our Ref: FOI 13 12855

Dear Mr Robertson

Freedom of Information Request

I refer to your Freedom of Information Request received on 15th August 2013.

Your request asked for the following information:

Your Request

Would you please inform me exactly how many company credit cards South Tyneside Homes has issued to staff?

Please forward me the names of these staff.

Please forward me the statements for the two most senior staffs' credit card.

Mr Whittle will hold one of these cards and I would like you to forward me Mr Whittles card statements from the following periods-

April 2012 to March 2013
April 2013 to July 2013

Council's Response

Having taken legal advice, the Council has refused this particular request and relies upon Section 14 of the Freedom of Information Act 1998 as it considers that it is vexatious. In coming to this conclusion, the Council has considered your conduct towards the Council, South Tyneside Homes and others with whom those organisations work, over the last 5 years.

Your request is considered to be submitted with the intention of causing harassment, and in view of your previous conduct, it has the potential to cause a disproportionate or unjustified level of disruption, irritation or distress.

It is the Council's view to also rely on Section 31(1a) exemption of the Freedom of Information Act that it should not be under any duty to disclose details of its financial accounts such as credit card numbers, account numbers and transactional reference numbers. The Council is of the view that disclosure of this information into the public domain, because of its very nature, would be likely to prejudice the prevention of crime because such information could be used by those intent on committing credit card fraud to do so.

Internal Review Request

The Council has received your request for an internal review into this request on 13th September 2013. However, internal reviews can only be arranged after a response has been sent to the original Freedom of Information request. The Council has a target date to respond to Freedom of Information Requests within 20 workings, and this response letter falls within that target period. As your request for an internal review was received before this response was issued and was inside the 20 day period, an internal review has not been arranged at this stage.

Copyright Procedure

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Internal Review Procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of this enquiry you can invoke the Council's internal review procedures to ask for an independent review of your request. All such requests must be sent to us within 4 weeks and must clearly state in writing your reference number and your reasons for your request for internal review.

The Information Governance Team can be contacted at the following address: Information Governance Team, Town Hall and Civic Buildings, Westoe Road, South Shields, Tyne and Wear, NE33 2RL.

Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)

Should you remain dissatisfied with the final outcome of the internal review process you can write to the Information Commissioner to ask for an independent review. The Information Commissioner is the Government's Independent Body responsible for overseeing the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Please do note the ICO will only review cases that have exhausted the Council's internal review procedures. All correspondence to the ICO must quote the Council's reference number and your reasons for your appeal.

The ICO's contact details are as follows: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF. More information can be found on the ICO's website at www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

If you have any further queries about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us on (0191) 424 6539, or by emailing foi@southtyneside.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Paul Robinson
Corporate Lead, Corporate Affairs