

Date: 4 July 2015

A Dickie

Via email to request-269394-93b7b756@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Ref: 150472/DT/F20
Your Ref: 00000
Direct Line: 00000
Email: FOI@blackpool.gov.uk

Dear A Dickie

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

In accordance with s.50 of the Act, I have considered your request for internal review and complaint against the response issued to you in relation to your information request.

My decision is that your complaint is successful and the complaint is upheld. I have explained my reasons for this decision next and the information requested is enclosed.

We have clearly failed to respond within the legislated timescale. This is not the standard that we strive to achieve and I would like to apologise on behalf of the Council.

I have liaised with Council directorates and obtained the information as it is held. The council requires its individual Directorates to maintain a Register of Interests within their own Directorate. This information is held securely by directorate coordinators as it contains personal data of employees. Delays in obtaining this information have occurred as coordinators have been, and are currently, unavailable. However I am able to provide some information as shown below.

You requested:

“I wish to know how many of the council's employees have currently declared an outside business interest. In addition I wish to know how many of those employees who have declared an outside business interest are payed at spinal point 29 or above. I also wish to know how many written authorisations have been issued by chief officers as outlined within section 6 of the Code of Conduct - Officers, issued in September 2014, and the dates on which they were issued.”

Response

To date, I have received information that indicates 86 declared interests.

The current Register of Interest form does not require the employee to include their grade. The council would be required to undertake a manual process to confirm grades. However, I can confirm that at least 6 employees over spinal column point 29 have declared an interest. These declared interests are

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for chief officers and senior council officers and are linked to their roles. Therefore, at this time, it has not been necessary to issue written authorisations and as such dates are not held.

If you wish to receive the remaining numbers, I will be able to provide these as soon as received.

If you are not happy with the outcome of the review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. You can contact the Information Commissioner at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF, (www.ico.org.uk).

If you have any queries about this letter you can contact me, or write to: FOI, PO Box 4, Blackpool, FY1 1NA, or email us at FOI@blackpool.gov.uk. Please remember to quote your reference number when you contact us.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Topping MBA LLM
Information Governance Team



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