

Date: 21 July 2015

**A. Dickie**

Via email to [request-269394-93b7b756@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-269394-93b7b756@whatdotheyknow.com)

**Our Ref:** 150472/DT/F20-2

**Your Ref:** 00000

**Direct Line:** 00000

**Email:** [FOI@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:FOI@blackpool.gov.uk)

Dear A Dickie

## *FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST*

Further to your response to our internal review, I am now detailing the outstanding information for your original request and providing the Council's response to some other statements or requests you have subsequently submitted.

### **Your original request:**

**"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."**

### **Our updated response - numbers**

I have received information that indicates a total of 135 declared interests.

You have already received the council's response regarding the remaining parts of your original request. We have nothing more to add to this.

### **Your new request and statements**

- 1) "...In addition please ensure that the numbers supplied include both positive and negative submissions..."**

As all employees are required to complete the Register of Interest declaration, and we currently have approx. 2884 permanent employees, it would be fair to assume that the negative number is 2749.

- 2) "Your reference to a manual system is at best misleading."**

I can assure you that there was no reference to a manual system in the council's internal review response. I believe that you are referring to the statement "The council would be required to

Information Governance Team  
Deputy Chief Executives Directorate  
PO Box 4  
Blackpool, FY1 1NA

Contact  
T: (01253) 477 477

[www.blackpool.gov.uk](http://www.blackpool.gov.uk)



undertake a manual process to confirm grades.” This was an explanation that a manual task would be required to collate some of the information you requested.

- 3) **“The idea that Blackpool Council keeps this information on paper is preposterous. The individual co-ordinators will clearly have this information stored on a spreadsheet at the very least ...”**

The council allows each directorate to maintain its directorate register in the format that it finds most appropriate. In many cases this is on paper. Where a directorate may hold some information on a spreadsheet or electronic document it appears that this is the name of the member of staff and their brief description of the interest that they have registered only.

- 4) **“...Can you outline the process employed by the council to identify those employees notifying a business interest who are also payed at scale point 29 or above. If no such process exists, then please state this in plain language.”**

In some cases it will be obvious from the job title entered e.g. Chief Executive, Head of ... however, I am informed that most forms are initially collected locally and therefore those employed above SCP 29 should be identifiable at that time. The forms are then passed to the co-ordinators.

At this time I have not been informed of the process other than that described in the internal guidance provided to all employees and the co-ordinators.

You kindly mention an annual report on returns which is provided to the Chief Executive which could be consulted. As this is an internal only, confidential report which only employees of the council and their Trade Union representatives would know about from their access to the internal guidance, this is not available for consultation for external matters at this time.

As this request has already been considered under the required Internal Review procedures, we will not be in a position to conduct another Internal 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](http://www.ico.org.uk)).

Yours sincerely

Information Governance Team

