

**Enquiries to:** Information Team  
**Our Ref:** FOI7186308

[request-741998-59559e2e@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-741998-59559e2e@whatdotheyknow.com)



**Liverpool  
City Council**

Dear Mr Roberts

### **Freedom of Information Request 7186308**

Thank you for your recent information request, the limited elements of which being valid sought the following information –

*“1. Please provide the following information on the failed Tannery development site that was never there.*

*In 2018 the Liverpool Echo ran a wonderful story (Fake) on how it had a breath-taking roof garden?*

*First look inside luxury new city centre flats in former leather factory  
'The Tannery' is set to open next year - with plans for a breath-taking roof garden.*

*By Emilia Bona Content Editor LIVERPOOL ECHO 14 MAR 2019*

*2. Why did a Liverpool city councilor acting for Vauxhall not try to whistle-blow or act when told of this scam (The Tannery) that councilor was Cllr Joe Hanson in 2019, both he and the other two councilors of his ward knew of this yet all three failed to act, has the Liverpool city council kept all and any records on this or investigated this site?*

*The Liverpool Echo reporter (Emilia Bona) was called, and she had admitted she had never been to the Tannery or the breath-taking roof garden, in fact what she did say was she had had calls from investors who had been ripped-off.*

*3. Emilia Bona was asked to pass this information to Cllr. Joe Hanson and copy in Cllr. Kennedy who could investigate this along with another site in the Vauxhall ward, has the council kept any past records on this?*

*Now March 25th, 2021 a number of very up-set investors are coming forward demanding answers from both the Liverpool Echo (Emilia Bona) who it seems could of exposed this scam by re-printing her story and Cllr Hanson could have helped her to expose this scam, both did nothing.*

*4. Can our Liverpool city council provide any information as to the actions of these councilors being linked to this project (Tannery) that was never there?*

*Cllr Hanson in 2019 had said he knew of Neil Carlyle, and then said he knows 'Tony Kenny' of 'The Tannery (Liverpool) Ltd and that it was then set up as this company 'Vinco Group Ltd.*

*5. Will the Liverpool city council please investigate these Vauxhall councilors and any moonlighting links Cllr Hanson may have been linked to in the past? the following agents or players in this scam The Tannery are:*

*1a) David Phillips interiors Manchester Off-plan interiors for £7,000 plus*

2b] *Vino Group Ltd*

3c] *Nova financial London the selling agents for the; Tannery' Liverpool.*

4d] *Excello Law Ltd the law company for the 'Tannery' and Vinco group*

5e] *All church property lawyers were acting for the investors now designed to do a runner with the payments and shut down.*

6. *If any of these Vauxhall so called councilors are involved in this the council needs to expose this and pass to Mr. Max Caller to further investigate."*

## **Response**

Liverpool City Council would advise –

1. This is a statement, speculation and comment and therefore not a valid question.
2. That is a matter for the individual Elected Members and you would therefore be advised to contact them directly – it is a matter for them as to whether they respond. The remaining elements of this part of your request are statement and comment and therefore not a valid question.
3. That is a matter for the individual Elected Members and you would therefore be advised to contact them directly – it is a matter for them as to whether they respond. The remaining elements of this part of your request are statement and comment and therefore not a valid question.
4. No information of relevance is held by Liverpool City Council.
5. This element of your request is a statement. If you wish to raise a complaint against a Councillor please refer to the following weblink – <https://liverpool.gov.uk/contact-us/complaints-and-feedback/make-a-complaint-about-a-councillor/> or if you wish to raise a whistleblowing concern, please refer to the following weblink – <https://liverpool.gov.uk/contact-us/complaints-and-feedback/whistleblowing/>
6. This element of your request is a statement.

In relation to the remaining elements of your request, to the extent that you comment relating to individual Councillors and third parties –

## **Warning - Submission of Information** **Requests with potentially Defamatory Content**

It is our assessment that the content of a number of the statements within your request are in whole or part potentially defamatory in nature, that these identify or refer to individuals and are being published by yourself through the use of a public website forum to third parties.

We would further advise you that the defamatory statements made by yourself either directly or through recognised aliases and contained within the information requests referenced above fall within the meaning of Article 14(1)(a) of the E-Commerce Directive (2000/31/EC). Under the law of England and Wales, a defamatory statement is one which

**Liverpool City Council Information Team**  
Cunard Building, Water Street, Liverpool, L3 1AH  
E: [informationrequests@liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:informationrequests@liverpool.gov.uk)

tends to lower the claimant in the estimation of right thinking members of society generally (Sim v Stretch [1936] 2 All ER 1237).

We would further advise that a defamatory statement is published at the place where it is read, heard or seen, and is not where the material was first placed on the internet. In internet cases, therefore, provided a small number of people have access to the material on the internet in England, the English courts will have jurisdiction to hear the claim against a foreign defendant (Spiliada Maritime Corp v Cansulex Ltd [1987] A.C. 460).

We would therefore advise that you take prompt action to remove or disabled access to the Offending Webpages.

In the event that this confirmation is not received, the individuals named directly or by implication within the above referenced information requests and publicly displayed on the Offending Websites shall reserve the right to issue proceedings against you seeking relief for defamation.

The remedies that may be available to the these individuals include an injunction restraining further publication of the Offending Statement [pending trial], damages, legal costs and interest.

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](mailto: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](http://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: 0303-123-113. Email – [mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk) (they advise that their email is not secure)

Yours sincerely  
**Liverpool City Council**