



United Kingdom  
Debt Management  
Office

Eastcheap Court  
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[www.dmo.gov.uk](http://www.dmo.gov.uk)

Sent by email to: request-486876-180a14ba@whatdotheyknow.com

15 June 2018

Dear Mr Ashworth,

Thank you for your email of 7 June 2018 following up on your earlier FOI request of 22 May 2018. You have requested loan request paperwork/emails relating to an alleged £26m loan taken by St Helens Council to buy Church Square Shopping Centre.

As we previously advised on 5 June 2018, the UK Debt Management Office (DMO) does not hold the information you have requested.

The DMO does not have a record of a loan advanced to St Helen's Council for £26m during 2017. As advised previously, details of all loans outstanding can be accessed from the DMO website via the following link:

<https://www.dmo.gov.uk/responsibilities/local-authority-lending-pwlb/monthly-loans-report/>

By way of background to your request for paperwork/emails, it may be helpful if I set out the process whereby borrowers would make loan requests. New borrowers are required to contact the Public Work Loans Board (PWLB or the Board) in advance to arrange the necessary authorisations and bank details. Once completed, loan applications may then be made by telephone only, and only within the Board's hours of business. The terms of the loan and the rate of interest on a fixed rate loan – or the formula for a variable rate loan – will be agreed at the time and the advance made two working days later. Confirmation of the loan arrangement is issued on the date of advance.

Full details of the lending arrangements for loans advanced by the PWLB (circular 159) can be obtained via the following link:

<https://www.dmo.gov.uk/responsibilities/local-authority-lending-pwlb/lending-arrangements/>

Yours sincerely,

Records Management Service

D 020 7862 6528

E [RecordsManagementService@dmo.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:RecordsManagementService@dmo.gsi.gov.uk)

## **Your Rights to Complain under the FOI Act**

If you are not content with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write within two months of the date of this letter to the Records Management Service, UK Debt Management Office, Eastcheap Court, 11 Philpot Lane, London EC3M 8UD or email:

[recordsmanagementservice@dmo.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:recordsmanagementservice@dmo.gsi.gov.uk).

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the DMO. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

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