



request-478079-a8b722e8@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr Wilson

Freedom of Information Request 586522

Thank you for your recent request received 19 April 2018. Your request was actioned under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in which you requested the following information –

Q1. Apparently, Councillor Gary Millar was approached by a company called Fabrik as part of a consultation project. A meeting took place in Chinatown on the 15th July 2015. On or about July 2015, another meeting took place at Parr Street studios, regarding the above.

Did Councillor Gary Millar receive any payment whatsoever from Fabrik?

Did Councillor Gary Millar receive any payment whatsoever from Liverpool City Council regarding the consultation exercise, or for the meeting at Parr Street Studios?

In what capacity did Councillor Gary Millar attend the meeting, was he attending as a private individual or was he representing Liverpool City Council?

Q2. Apparently, in November 2015, Councillor Gary Millar was in Hong Kong with North Point Global Ltd, Samson Law, and Peter McInnes.

a. Was Councillor Gary Millar promoting North Point Global?

b. Who Paid for Councillor Gary Millar to visit Hong Kong?

c. Who authorised Councillor Gary Millar to visit Hong Kong?

d. Who authorised the use of the Liverpool City Council logo on promotional and advertising posters and banners about investment in North Point Global New Chinatown developments, Pall Mall, etc?

e. Was Gary Millar authorised to visit Hong Kong by either, Councillor Joe Anderson, Councillor Ann O'Byrne or Mr Jed Fitzgerald?

Q3. The method of deceiving, used to deceive investors is known as a Fishing Ground. It is used to scam investors out of life savings. Apparently, even with cursory research it can be seen the same names constantly appear, Tony Freeman, Samson Law, Peter McInnes and Nigel Russell.

a. Was Councillor Gary Millar aware of a serious drugs raid carried out on a property owned in Liverpool by Peter McInnes wife.

b. Was Councillor Gary Millar aware of the criminal activities of the above named?

c. Why was Councillor Gary Millar endorsing a project that was being supported by developers with criminal backgrounds?

d. Why did Liverpool City Council allow a £290 million project be given to developers with criminal backgrounds?

e. Was Councillor Gary Millar aware that Tony Freeman and Peter McInnes were connected to each other?

- f. Was Councillor Gary Millar aware of the above-named connection to the failed Angelgate project in Manchester.*
- g. Were Liverpool City Council in any way whatsoever aware of the above-named connection to the failed Angelgate project in Manchester?*
- h. Why did Councillor Gary Millar allow himself to be entertained by North Point Global in Hong Kong?*
- i. Were Liverpool City Council aware that Councillor Gary Millar was being entertained by North Point Global in Hong Kong?*

Q4. Apparently, Councillor Gary Millar engaged in a trip on the Queen Mary 2, between Southampton and Liverpool.

- a. Who paid the bill for this journey?*
- b. Was Councillor Gary Millar representing Liverpool City Council on the trip?*
- c. Was Councillor Gary Millar on a private trip during this journey?*
- d. Was Councillor Gary Millar representing any other business entity whatsoever during this trip?*

Furthermore, during a dinner in Hong Kong in November 2015, promotional background posters featured the three Cunard Queens docked at the Liverpool waterfront to impress investors with Liverpool's standing as a safe investment city.

- Q5.a. Does Liverpool City Council have a code of conduct for councillors?*
- b. Does Liverpool City Council consider it ethical to allow its council members to engage with such questionable and underhanded developers?*
- c. Does Liverpool City Council endorse its council members to engage with such questionable and underhanded developers?*
- d. Did Councillor Gary Millar know that, as part of his background Peter McInnes was a debtor of Liverpool City Council?*

Q6. Is Councillor Gary Millar entitled to use the official titles, Councillor and Deputy Mayor of Liverpool in any private capacity whatsoever.

Q7. Did Councillor Gary Millar use his official title with a firm of solicitors recently, either in a. A private capacity, or, b. On behalf of Liverpool City Council, c. Both?

Q8. Did Liverpool City Council officially authorise Councillor Gary Millar to send out letters to Chinese investors using his official capacity as deputy mayor of Liverpool asking the investors for compensation to give to the homeless?

Q9. What was the purpose of requesting compensation from the investors?

Response:

Liverpool City Council would advise as follows –

1. Councillor Millar and his company Parr Street Studios Limited have never received any payments from Fabrik, North Point Global Ltd or Samson Law or Peter McInnes at any point. Councillor Millar attended a consultation exercise in respect of the New Chinatown scheme as a consultee on behalf of Liverpool City Council which took place with leaders of the Chinese community at a restaurant in Nelson Street in July 2015. The purpose of the consultation exercise was to preview draft initial ideas for what was later to become New Chinatown and which took place many months

before any planning applications had been considered or approved.

2. Councillor Millar and Ellen Cutler were in China and Hong Kong on behalf of the City Council and Invest Liverpool/Liverpool Vision respectively. This visit did not however extend to representing or promoting individual developments, only to promoting the city of Liverpool itself.
3. The majority of this 'question' is considered to be a statement and as such is not a valid request under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. With regard to those elements which can be considered to be a valid question, Liverpool City Council and Councillor Millar did not have any knowledge of the issues raised.
4. This is factually incorrect. Cllr Gary Millar did not travel on the Cunard QM2 trip from Liverpool / Canada/ New York City in May 2016, in either an official or private capacity.
5. Yes, please refer to the Code of Conduct for Elected Representatives which is in the public domain and reasonably accessible to you via the following weblink – <http://councillors.liverpool.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD7099&ID=7099&RPID=13539348&sch=doc&cat=13570&path=370%2c13570>

With regard to the remaining elements of this question. Councillor Millar did not have knowledge nor would he be aware of the status of an individual as a debtor. Liverpool City Council advises anyone who believes their investment has been lost due to illegal activities to report it to the appropriate authorities.

6. As your question clearly states, Councillor Millar is entitled to and does use the titles of Councillor and Deputy Mayor of Liverpool in an official capacity.
7. Councillor Millar is understood to have engaged Solicitors to represent him in a private capacity as he is entirely entitled to do. This is a matter for Councillor Millar in his private capacity and not for the City Council.
8. Neither Councillor Millar or any representative of the City Council had any involvement whatsoever in encouraging individuals to invest in this project. Such issues are a matter between the developer and the individual investors. Liverpool City Council advises anyone who believes their investment has been lost due to illegal activities to report it to the appropriate authorities.
9. Neither Councillor Millar or any representative of the City Council had any involvement whatsoever in encouraging individuals to invest in this project. Such issues are a matter between the developer and the individual investors. Liverpool City Council advises anyone who believes their investment has been lost due to illegal activities to report it to the appropriate authorities.

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 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.

Liverpool City Council Information Team
Cunard Building, Water Street, Liverpool, L3 1DS
E: informationrequests@liverpool.gov.uk

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 and the postal address and telephone numbers are:- Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK95AF. Telephone 0303 123 1113. Email – mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk (they advise that their email is not secure)

I trust this information satisfies your enquiry.

Yours sincerely

A Lewis

Information Team