



South Tyneside Council

Date: 14th September 2017
Our Ref: FOI 17 18685

Lucie Stephens
request-429811-b6d36592@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Ms Stephens

Freedom of Information Request

I refer to your Freedom of Information Request received on the 6th September 2017

Your request asked for the following information:

Your Request

1. The amount of money spent on asbestos management in schools between 2006 and 2016 (to include the costs of surveys, staff training and work to enclose asbestos within schools)
2. The amount of money spent on asbestos removal from schools between 2006 and 2016
3. The amount of money spent on fines for breaches in the safe management of asbestos in schools between 2006 and 2016
4. Funding sought from the Department of Education and the Education Funding Authority for the management and removal of asbestos from schools between 2006 and 2016
5. The amount of funding approved by the Department of Education and the Education Funding Authority for the management and removal of asbestos from schools between 2006 and 2016
6. The projected budget for future management of asbestos in schools between 2017 and 2027

Council's Response

We can confirm the following information with regards your request above.

1. The amount of money spent on asbestos management in schools between 2006 and 2016 (to include the costs of surveys, staff training and work to enclose asbestos within schools)

The Council does hold the information you have requested, however I have decided to withhold some of the information you have requested under Section

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12 of the Freedom of Information Act. The council are not legally obliged to respond to requests for information which exceed the cost threshold of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). The appropriate limit as set out in Section 12 of the Act is £450. This cost presents one person spending 2½ working days (i.e. 18 hours) in determining if the information is held and locating, retrieving and extracting the information for disclosure purposes.

We estimate that to respond to your FOI request would involve substantial effort and a disproportionate exercise of trawling through manual and electronic records, thus exceeding the £450 limit. It is on this basis that part of your request is refused.

Advice and assistance

Under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act we are obliged to provide advice and assistance, where appropriate.

These costs are incorporated in the figures provided in question 2 and please note data prior to 2011/12 is in our old financial system which is no longer available.

2. The amount of money spent on asbestos removal from schools between 2006 and 2016

Please see table below

Financial Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Asbestos removal	£147,436	£160,051	£174,289	£161,201	£190,550	£154,163

3. The amount of money spent on fines for breaches in the safe management of asbestos in schools between 2006 and 2016

None, we have had no fines for breaches

4. Funding sought from the Department of Education and the Education Funding Authority for the management and removal of asbestos from schools between 2006 and 2016

We do not seek specific funding for asbestos removal but any spend will be funded from our Annual School Condition funding Allocation

5. The amount of funding approved by the Department of Education and the Education Funding Authority for the management and removal of asbestos from schools between 2006 and 2016

As above

6. The projected budget for future management of asbestos in schools between 2017 and 2027

There is no set budget as works dependent upon Education funding but will be approximately the same as the last years which was £150,000 - £160,000

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Internal Review Procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of this enquiry you can invoke the Council's internal review procedures to ask for an independent review of your request. All such requests must be sent to us within 4 weeks and must clearly state in writing your reference number and your reasons for your request for internal review.

The Information Governance Team can be contacted at the following address:
Information Governance Team, Town Hall and Civic Buildings, Westoe Road, South Shields, Tyne and Wear, NE33 2RL.

Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)

Should you remain dissatisfied with the final outcome of the internal review process you can write to the Information Commissioner to ask for an independent review. The Information Commissioner is the Government's Independent Body responsible for overseeing the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Please do note the ICO will only review cases that have exhausted the Council's internal review procedures. All correspondence to the ICO must quote the Council's reference number and your reasons for your appeal.

The ICO's contact details are as follows: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF. More information can be found on the ICO's website at www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

If you have any further queries about this matter then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

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Information Governance

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