

Mr Sean Moran

11 November 2013

Our ref: IR26442

Dear Mr Moran

Thank you for your request for information received on 24 August 2013 concerning asking for a list of all Lambeth Councillors for the last 40 years (or as long as possible) and for information relating to the Heads and Deputies of Lambeth Council Departments for the same period of time.

In May 2013 Lambeth Council revised the process for logging and handling communication and contact with the Council. In terms of Freedom of Information requests, the changes made to the handling process included the implementation of a contact centre to log requests received, the installation of a new customer contact system to monitor requests for information and, the transfer of responsibility for responding to FOI requests to a centralised team. As a result of these changes, some of the FOI requests Lambeth Council has received via whatdotheyknow.com have exceeded the response deadline.

I have now conducted a review of the handling of your case and would like to apologise for the delay in dealing with your request, I am now personally focussing on providing responses to the outstanding requests submitted to Lambeth Council via whatdotheyknow.com.

From our preliminary assessment, we estimate that compliance with your entire request would exceed the appropriate costs limit under section 12 of the Freedom of information Act 2000. This is currently £450.

Section 12 (1) FOIA, does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. In accordance with s16 FOIA – providing advice and assistance we are able to provide the following response to parts of your request.

Please find attached the structures taken from the Council Constitution going back to 2003. We are unable to fulfil the request to go back 40 years, and can provide the attached documents which include the information for the years 2003 to date. Prior to 2003, copies of the constitution were stored in hard copy form, these are currently held in archives in the Town Hall and would exceed the time to fulfil the request to locate and extract the required pages from the files.

The Council has also considered the time required to provide you with details of the election results for the past 40 years. Again some of this information would be held in manual records and would exceed the appropriate limit to extract the requested information for the 40 year time period of your request. However, the following weblink contains details of the election results dating back to 2002:

<http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/moderngov/mgManageElectionResults.aspx?bcr=1>

The previous election result data will be set out in the annual meeting of the council agendas for the meeting immediately after the election concerned (1998, 1994, 1990, etc). There will also be by-election results which can be located by reading through the council agendas; the information is included under any announcements made by the Chief Executive.

Past Council agendas can be accessed by making arrangements to visit the Lambeth Archives Service at the Minet Library:

<http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/Services/LeisureCulture/LocalHistory/Archives.htm>

The Council would also like to refer you to 2 external sources which may contain the requested data. Please see the past results section of the BBC webpage and the following Wikipedia page on Lambeth election results:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lambeth_local_elections

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/election2010/council/html/3912.stm>

If you are dissatisfied with the response provided to your Freedom of Information request you can request an internal review. Tell us why you are unhappy with our response within 40 working days, and it will be looked at afresh. We will aim to provide you with our review response within 20 working days.

By email: foi@lambeth.gov.uk (Please quote the reference number above) or by writing:

Freedom of Information
Olive Morris House Brixton Hill
London
SW2 1RD

If you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the review you have a further right to appeal to the Information Commissioner, who regulates the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act. The Commissioner can be contacted at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Enquiry line: 0303 123 1113

Thank you for your interest in Lambeth Council.

Yours sincerely

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