



request-381191-5683ab48@whatdotheyknow.com

13 January 2017

Dear Mr Tully,

Freedom of Information Request 514193

Thank you for your recent request received 12 January 2017. Your request was actioned under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in which you requested the following information –

“If a councillor is unable to perform their duties:

What procedure is in place to ensure the council 'day to day' activity remains functioning?

Are the councillors subject to the same procedures as an employee of the council, when on a prolonged absence? for example - interviewed to ascertain if they can continue in their role?

In view of the current economic climate, where every pound makes a difference, at what point would the council feel it is in the best interests of the community (council tax payer) to request a councillor step down from their role(s)?

Do councillors have regular medicals to ensure they are fit for office?

If the councillors have medicals are they funded by the council or their political party, to which they have allegiance?

Response:

Liverpool City Council's responses to your request are as follows –

City Councillors are elected to hold Public Office and are not employees of the City Council. Each Ward is represented by three Councillors and as such in the absence of one or more colleagues their Ward activities are addressed by their colleagues. On this basis –

1. In the event of absence, activities undertaken by the Councillor are carried out by Ward or Group colleagues. In their absence from attending one or Committee meetings, an Alternate system operates whereby a designated alternate may attend and participate at Committee on their behalf.
2. No. City Councillors are not employees of the City Council. Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that if a Councillor fails to attend any Council or Committee meeting for a period of six months he or she will be automatically disqualified as an elected member, unless their failure to attend was a reason which was approved by Full Council before the expiry of the six-months period. Were such a circumstance to occur then prior to the expiry of the six-month period a report would be placed before Full Council setting out the reason and circumstances for absence.

It would then be a matter for Full Council to determine whether the reasons and circumstances were acceptable.

3. It is not a matter for the City Council to make such requests nor is there legislative provision to do so.
4. No.

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.

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 SK9 5AF. Fax number 01625 524 510, DX 20819, Telephone 01625 545745. 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

Angela Lewis
Information Team