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Ref. FOI/2020/0156

FOI Team
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27 February 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - INFORMATION REQUEST No.0156

Your request for information has now been considered and the information requested is below.

I would like to receive a copy of the complete current local authority Register of Interest for all elected politicians in a machine-readable spreadsheet format such as a CSV file, including any additional information that may not be published on your website.

The current registers of interest for each of our elected Members are available on our website at <https://democracy.west-lindsey.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1>

If you hold records relating to historical registers of interest for current and former elected politicians I would be grateful if you could also supply them.

These are attached, bundled into the years they were submitted. Those interest forms for Members that left over 18 months are not included as we have no requirement to publish or retain these under our retention policy.

In some forms prior to 2019 a Councillor's address has been redacted – this is because they no longer live at that property.

I would also like to receive a copy of the complete current local authority Gifts and Hospitality Registers for all elected politicians in a machine-readable spreadsheet format, including any data that may not be published on your website. If you hold historical records of gifts or hospitality received for current and former elected politicians I would be grateful if you could also supply them.

Attached – the names of officers are redacted.

Lastly, if you hold a separate register of interests that records those declared at meetings, please also supply that register in a machine-readable spreadsheet format. Again, if you hold historical records of declarations that may not be published on your website, please supply details. I would prefer not to receive the requested information in pdf format files. If the requested information is published as open data, please could you supply the location where this data can be found.

Any declarations made by Members at meetings since 2016 are on the following page:
<https://democracy.west-lindsey.gov.uk/mgListDeclarationsOfInterest.aspx>. Declarations back to 2006 are attached in the word document.

As the overwhelming majority of our forms are scanned in they are only available in PDF format, hence why we have sent them this way. It would take well in advance of 18 working hours to transfer this information onto an Excel spreadsheet which under Section 12 of the FOI exceeds the cost limit for compliance under the FOIA. In order to move the information to excel we have worked on the basis of 5 minutes to locate and transfer each piece of data released leading us to a time of 33 and a half hours or approx. £837 at £25 per staff hour as a minimum.

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If you are happy with the handling of your request please feel free to provide feedback to the FOI Office.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please contact Alan Robinson, Monitoring Officer, West Lindsey District Council, Guildhall, Marshall's Yard, Gainsborough, Lincs, DN21 2NA

Yours sincerely
FOI Team
West Lindsey District Council