

Enquiries to: Information Team
Our Ref: FOI4070053



**Liverpool
City Council**

request-667274-deb55098@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear R Gilmore MDC

Freedom of Information Request 64070053

Thank you for your information request, summarised below as follows –

“(i) Please supply the year when 'David McElhinney' was supplied with a room (paid for by LCC) at the Liverpool Moat House hotel Liverpool and what year did it end?

(ii) Please supply all expense and the total amount of bills that the Liverpool city council paid to all hotels for David McElhinney, the year it stated and the year it ended.

Did the LCC use public funds to pay for David McElhinney's hotel bills?.”

Response

By way of context and as you will be aware, Liverpool City Council in common with all other public authorities in the UK, Europe and worldwide have, since March, been dealing with and responding to the Coronavirus pandemic. The introduction of substantial Government restrictions well before the submission of your request have had wide reaching and ongoing impacts being felt across society. These impacts specifically affected all Service Areas of the City Council as Officer resources and personnel are diverted to supporting the most vulnerable residents of this city.

Specifically, from early March 2020, direct impacts were being seen for the City Council in terms of staff absence due to symptoms of or self-isolation due to Coronavirus as well as significant and substantial increases in demand for those Services which specifically support children, the elderly and the most vulnerable residents across Liverpool.

In light of the above factors, Officers from early March 2020 were gradually and in increasing numbers assigned to different Service Areas to ensure continuity of service, provision and support for children, the elderly and the most vulnerable residents across Liverpool as indicated above.

This impacted considerably on the ability of colleagues within all departments of the City Council to identify, retrieve and collate information, as well as the absence of relevant Officers whose knowledge informs the preparation and content of responses whilst resources are focussed on the ongoing pandemic, as you may well have noticed.

Liverpool City Council would further advise that responses collated and issued by the Information Team and the Customer Feedback Team represent data held by the City Council within relevant Service Areas and Directorates of the entire City Council and not data held by the Information Team and Customer Feedback teams directly.

The Information Team itself does not hold information on nor have access to information held by every single Service Area of the Council nor does it have access to this information. Responses are issues as they are provided to the Information Team from the relevant Service Area.

With the above factors in mind, we greatly appreciate your patience and understanding for

Liverpool City Council Information Team

Cunard Building, Water Street, Liverpool, L3 1AH

E: informationrequests@liverpool.gov.uk



the delay on this occasion.

We acknowledge that on this occasion, we have been unable to meet deadlines for response associated with your request in light of the unprecedented global pandemic, on the basis that the City Council and its Officers continue to focus on delivering essential services and support for vulnerable residents and communities as well as seeking to administer support for businesses within the city.

In relation to the specifics of this request, this would require an extensive review of archive records for the period 1999-2012 and would require each individual transaction to be manually checked to identify and extract any relevant information.

With a combination of manual and electronic records involved and a total of in excess of 18,000 record files, and allowing 2 minutes to review each would require in excess of 600 hours. On this basis as this exceeds the 18 hour prescribed limit whereby public authorities may decline to full a request in whole or part if this is exceeded, then Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been applied to these portions of your request.

This concludes our response. As we have applied Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this response also therefore serves as a Section 17 Notice.

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. Telephone: 0303-123-113. Email – mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk (they advise that their email is not secure)

We trust this information satisfies your enquiry.

Yours sincerely

Liverpool City Council