

request-543299-dd05b7de@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr Traynor

Freedom of Information Request 665426

Thank you for your recent request received 11 January 2019. Your request was actioned under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in which you requested the following information –

Dear Liverpool City Council, I wish to have to full breakdown of Expenses claimed by Cllr Gary Millars Trip to Singapore .Arport transfers , meals, flight tickets Hotel costs. Expenses for meals, entertainment etc etc and who purchased the above Hotel bookings and flights for him.

Response:

The City Council would advise that Councillor Millar posted a detailed status update as regards his activities and visit to Surabaya, Indonesia, via Singapore on 20 November on Facebook which is already in the public domain and reasonably accessible to you. However in order to assist, his update has been copied from Facebook and is reproduced below –

“Today I returned from our Sister City Surabaya in Indonesia. Since Thursday evening I have been nearly 8,000 miles away on the other side of the world. I was in Surabaya to attend a major global policy event relating to future business and policy on business and business support trends on behalf of this city and Mayor Anderson. Sadly I already see reference to my visit on Twitter as it being a so called jolly!

Well this particularly jolly was made up of 6 flights, a 16,000 miles round trip, 1 and half days travelling each way, 3 packed days of events and meetings and 20 hours of sleep since Thursday! But then perhaps if people don't know what I'm doing on these trips I take their criticism on the chin and will try to do better in explaining what the outcomes and successes are, or could be.

It's my view that we should be proud of our overseas exploration and our growing friendships. To be honest, I know that not every trip will reap immediate dividends and some will need one, two, three and more follow-ups before the real business happens. But, that's so true for any sales process. Of course we also have to be strategic and aware of our limitations, our weaknesses and strengths. In the case of Surabaya some magic has already occurred and they are indeed doing business with this city that already exceeds any money we may have spent. In this case we have the full support of their willing government, their very willing Mayor and a true friendship with a city of over 3.5 million people in the world's 4th largest population. The opportunities are what we make and the door is wide open for any business willing to expand its international outreach.

This weekend's visit was one of the Mayor of Surabaya's requests when she brought a

large delegation to Liverpool in July quickly followed by a visit and similar request from their Parliament in August. Interestingly, I have discovered that not only is their government keen to work with Liverpool I have since discovered that they have told other UK cities that they will only buy goods and services from Liverpool and the City Region whenever possible.

I'm pleased to say that my visit has cost Liverpool nothing as the flights and accommodation are being paid by Surabaya's government. For the sake of accuracy it was actually Steve that paid for my flights due to this being a last minute arrangement and the £1313.60 he's paid out will be reimbursed by Surabaya. I also went over on my own and was so appreciative of the support provided by Surabaya and the British Embassy whilst there.

Now that I'm back home I've written to Surabaya's Mayor Risma to thank her for her continued friendship, engagement and interest in Liverpool.

So if you've managed to read this far you might be thinking "well Gary what have I been up to since Wednesday when you started this particular trip?":-

I left Liverpool last Wednesday (14th Nov) and after 3 flights I arrived at my hotel in Surabaya late evening on Thursday.

On Friday morning first thing, I joined the opening of the Global Entrepreneurship Network's Start-up Nations Summit. Quickly followed by me being an honoured guest at Mayor Risma's speech on Smart Cities and government. This was then followed by attending Liverpool's Nova and Co-Foundry's Professor Paul Morrissey's presentation. I later joined the judging panel of a logistics hackathon. Following a working lunch I was one of 2 key speakers contributing to a discussion on partnerships and collaboration working based on creativity. In the evening I attended a reception and welcome dinner for the Start-up Nations Summit.

On Saturday I joined Mayor Risma and a young eager group leaving for Liverpool to study football skills over the next 2 weeks. These boys were so obviously excited by the opportunity given to them. I was particularly moved when I noticed one of the boys being overcome with emotion when he discovered that Mayor Risma had purchased for him and the others new football boots. It was then a privilege for me to treat these boys to the movies to see Fantastic Beasts 2.

On Sunday, I had a 7:30am rickshaw ride through the streets of Surabaya, including meeting many people along the route and learning about their exercise regimes, their new parks, their park libraries and Surabaya's Car Free Day. Mayor Risma's outstanding leadership was obvious from the many thousands of people that lined our route and who then gathered to meet us in the park. This surprising and awe inspiring event was followed by me being invited as an honoured guest at a fashion, culinary and business festival in the Tunjungan district. This was very enjoyable (but a bit too hot to be sitting outdoors in 36 degrees for over 2 hours). I recognised it as an important part of the Mayor's efforts in helping create a new business economy for people of any age (one of the new successful businesses is run by a 72 year old woman). I was also pleased to join Mayor Risma's business lead during one of their training sessions with the many ladies and the one man who have created some new businesses involved in fashion and food. I was so impressed by their products I felt I had to spend some money with these fantastic people. We followed this event by

having a well-earned lunch at a traditional Indonesian Dutch steakhouse. I then spent the remainder of Sunday sending emails to government leads from across the world that I had met during the Start-up Nations Summit.

On Monday (yesterday), my last day in Surabaya, it was a pleasure to join the Mayor first thing in the morning at a former landfill site and witness the transformation she has helped in creating another public park. I was particularly interested in her plans for turning an incinerator warehouse/building within this new park into a business incubation centre. Perhaps this is a project where one of Liverpool's leading incubators or urban planners could help the Surabaya government with by providing additional expertise and advice. I've already suggested to Mayor Risma that DOES Liverpool, Baltic Creative, Arup and others could be of some assistance. Interestingly on this point I understand from the British Embassy that they have a potential Future Cities Fund that has been set aside for projects in Surabaya that could cover Resilience and Urban Planning projects. I have therefore asked the Embassy to send me further details so that I may share these with local interested parties.

Before leaving on Monday afternoon (our morning back in the UK) I had a very productive meeting with the British Honorary Consul and British Embassy. We praised the Mayor Risma's recent initiatives with Tranmere Rovers and with St Vincent's School for the Visually Impaired. We also discussed her government's work with Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) and 3 of their universities and we now await news of some successful collaborations. During that final meeting of my visit we also explored how to better communicate business opportunities between Surabaya and Liverpool. The British Embassy is now exploring how to add further benefit to that relationship. I had a similar discussion with the British Chambers of Commerce and the Embassy on Sunday about looking at how we can make it easier for businesses from both cities to buy and sell from each other. I have therefore suggested a web portal that could hopefully highlight in English what opportunities exist in Surabaya? I also found out that there is an investment portal via the British Embassy and Department of International Trade that may be part of the solution and I therefore await details on this as well. We also discussed how to better share positive media stories from Surabaya with the UK, and of course in particular with Liverpool. For example, I know that there were at least over 20 different positive articles relating to my visit this weekend. However, as they are not in English I explained that I was worried that our media back home may miss the importance of our impact, our success stories and any potential opportunities.

Surabaya and Indonesia has a great story to tell and I have explained that I want us to help play a role in making the process of sharing our good news in a way that is easier to understand back home - the British Embassy is going to explore what they can do to improve the sharing of good news stories with the media back home.

I have now thanked the Mayor and her team for their kind assistance before and during my visit. I also give her a chromed Liver Bird as a personal gift. Plus, today I personally sent her flowers to celebrate her birthday.

Mayor Risma, one of the world's leading leaders tells me she is now looking forward to visiting Liverpool sometime next year. Perhaps at some stage during the visit to St Vincent's by some of her young people and their Carers in June or July next year.

Finally, although I arrived back in Liverpool at 11:30 this morning my first meeting of

the day was at Liverpool Hope University. During that meeting I was also able to connect the Vice Chancellor with one of the people I met last Friday in Surabaya. The Chief of Staff for the Ministry of Small Business Development of the Republic of South Africa is keen to engage with the university and explore how they can help with next year's Smart Nations Summit In Durban in South Africa. So although I was in Indonesia it's also helped create other international connections - from Nigeria, Bahrain, Brazil and of course South Africa."

In terms of the overseas visit and detail thereof, following an invitation extended by the Indonesian Embassy and Mayor Risma of Surabaya's office to Mayor Anderson OBE, Councillor Millar attended the event as Deputy Mayor and on behalf of Mayor Anderson OBE and at the request of Mayor Anderson OBE. It is entirely reasonable and routine for Mayor Anderson OBE to request his Deputy Mayors or Cabinet Members to attend key events on his behalf such as in this instance. An email requesting Councillor Millar to attend on behalf of the Mayor is appended to this response.

All costs and arrangements associated with this visit were initially met by Councillor Millar, with the initial payment being made in November. These were subsequently reimbursed in full to Councillor Millar by the organisers of the event to which this trip related, namely Global Entrepreneurship Network, on 28 December 2018 at which point notification was provided to the City Council of receipt of hospitality in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Conduct for Elected Members.

Councillor Millar advises that the total cost of flights (6) reimbursed to him was £1,303.99. The costs associated with this trip including their reimbursement have been recorded by Councillor Millar as a Gift & Hospitality in the usual manner and which are publicly displayed on the City Council's website and reasonably accessible to you via the following weblink – <http://councillors.liverpool.gov.uk/mgDeclarationSubmission.aspx?UID=2750&HID=3494&FIID=0&HPID=31542204>

The Global Entrepreneurship Network event in Surabaya was a major global policy event relating to future business and policy on business and business support trends with a stopover in Singapore as part of the travel arrangements.

The Surabaya Liverpool relationship is a recognised testbed for increased regional co-operation between the UK and Indonesia and it should be noted that the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office is keen to help make it a success. This succinctly summarises the purposes of Senior Elected Members attending such events.

Travel arrangements and transfers associated with this visit were not arranged by the City Council and as such no further information is held by the City Council in this regard.

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. Telephone: 0303-123-113. 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

Enc

From: joe anderson
Date: 10 November 2018 at 14:15:44 GMT
To: Gary Millar; Reeves, Tony
Subject: Surabaya

You should if you can go to this.

Joe

From: Gary Millar
Sent: 09 November 2018 14:16:28
To: Reeves, Tony; Joe Anderson
Subject: Surabaya

Hi Joe/Tony - I did send an email on this last week following an official request and confirmation from the Indonesian Embassy and Mayor Risma's office. I have now just received this further message from the embassy. I'm not suggesting that I attend but it appears no one has contacted them either way and it could be embarrassing if we don't responded ASAP. This is the latest message:-

"Hi Garry, trust you are well. Mayor Risma asked me to follow up with you in regards with her invitation for you to attend the Start Up Summit Nation. She is really expecting your attendance as she is keen to show that Surabaya has special relationship with Liverpool. You also will have a chance to meet with 10 Surabaya Kids who will be taking a 2-week short course in Transmere Rovers. They will be departing on 17 Nov. Mayor Risma has confirmed to provide major expenses. Very grateful for your confirmation. Thank you"