

The Grenfell Directorate

Town Hall,
Hornton Street,
W8 7NX

Edward Williams

FOI Reference: 467065
Email: xxx@xxxx.xxx.x
Date: 27 September 2018

Dear Mr Williams

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your recent request to the Council. You asked to be provided with the following information:

Jenny McDonagh has admitted fraud using Grenfell tower funds.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/08/30/council-worker-charged-grenfell-tower-fraud-money-meant-victims/>

REQUEST

I would like the card statements showing what she spent the money on.

Response

This request is being handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Council considers this information exempt under Section 31(1)(a) (the prevention and detection of crime). Kensington and Chelsea Council has a dedicated fraud team for Grenfell cases and they are working in partnership with the police. The Council has a number of fraud investigations underway, and we have handed a number of cases to the police. We do not discuss case specifics or individual details, as it may impact investigations or any subsequent prosecutions.

In applying the exception, we are obliged to consider whether public interest in disclosure outweighs the public interest in maintaining the exception. There is a considerable public interest in the disclosure of information held by the Council in relation to Grenfell Tower. The Council recognises this and is committed to being accountable and transparent. Where possible, we will be releasing information that relates to Grenfell Tower.

However, there is also a significant public interest in withholding this information so as to not adversely affect any ongoing investigations. We therefore do not believe that there is an overriding reason to disclose the information requested and we believe that the public interest in withholding the information and not prejudicing the ongoing criminal investigation outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The Council has clear policies in place for officers to follow when they think fraud has taken place, and we will take action where necessary. If anyone has any concerns over fraud cases, they can contact the fraud team on 020 7361 2777 or email to xxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx

This response therefore acts as a refusal notice under section 17 of the FoIA.

Please quote the reference number 467065 in any future communications.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Information Management Team
The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
The Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8 7NX
Email: xxx@xxxx.xxx.xx

If you are still dissatisfied with the Council's response after the internal review you have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF.
Telephone: 01625 545 700
Website: www.ico.gov.uk

We would like to hear your views on our service. If you'd like to tell us how we did, you can complete our feedback form online at <http://www.yourwebsite.co.uk/foifedback>

I will now close your request as of this date.

Yours faithfully

Information Management Team