



## Information Resilience and Transparency

Please ask for: Kelly Leeson  
FOI Reference: 9094757  
Phone: +443000415985  
Email:  
kcc.information@email.icasework.com  
Date: 31 October 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000, relating to hotel spending. Please see the response below.

*It is not possible to identify spend on hotel bookings specifically for staff training, briefings and consultations, as this information is not readily held within our accounting system. It would require analysing the descriptions for all transactions with hotels to establish whether the spend is for staff training and even then may not be accurate as descriptions will not always be detailed enough to provide this information. This would certainly exceed the appropriate limit of £450 (18 hours @ £25 per hour), so under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, we are not obliged to deal with this element of your request.*

*Therefore, provided below is a summary of all payments made to hotels since 1 April 2019 which have been coded within our financial system to:*

*a) external room hire,  
b) refreshments, or  
c) staff training,  
excluding anything significant that obviously does not relate to staff training.*

*This analysis is based on payment date, so please be aware that these payments may cover some activity undertaken prior to 31 March 2019 but the invoice was not paid until the new financial year.*

	£p
External Room Hire	130,561.69
Refreshments	8,908.09
Staff Training	1,325.98
	<b>140,795.76</b>

*Some of these costs may be covered by grant income/external funding.  
This excludes spend within schools.*

If you are unhappy with this response, and believe KCC has not complied with legislation, you have 40 working days from the date of this response to ask for a review. You can do this by following our complaints process; details can be found at this link <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/complaints-and-compliments#tab-9> on our website. Please quote reference 9094757.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you can appeal to the Information Commissioner, who oversees compliance with both the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Details of what you need to do, should you wish to pursue this course of action, are available from the Information Commissioner's website <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>, or you can phone the ICO Helpline on 0303 123 1113.

Yours sincerely

Kelly Leeson  
Information Access Officer