



request-722204-4222c72d@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Ed Gommon

Freedom of Information Request 6361345/IR

Thank you for your request that the City Council undertake an Internal Review of the above information request. For purposes of clarity and context, your original request is summarised below as follows –

- "1. When did they start being employed directly by LFH?*
- 2. Were they all already council employees and seconded from other roles in the council?*
- 3. If so were their roles replaced/filled by someone else?*
- 4. Were all, some or none of these roles publicly advertised/externally advertised and was the recruitment process open and fair?*
- 5. Were they all redeployed to council roles to help out with the covid crisis? If so when did this occur and did LFH stop paying their wages directly and did they revert back to being full council employees?*
- 6. As of April/May 2020? Has LFH effectively ceased to function as all the staff have been redeployed to deal with covid?*
- 7. It was given a kick start grant of £750,000, followed by a further grant of £170,000. In turn, this was followed by a loan of £1,717,690 with which 'to buy property'. When were these payments made?*
- 8. Did the company have no turnover or employees between 15th August 2018 - October 29th 2019 when it filed accounts for a dormant company? If there was turnover and it had employees then why were dormant company accounts filed?."*

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 and continuing to date, 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 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.

With the above factors in mind, we greatly appreciate your patience and understanding for 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, our responses are as follows –

1. The City Council does not comment on the specific employment status and dates of service of individual employees as such data is considered personal to those employees and such as to have no reasonable expectation of disclosure to the public. Section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is therefore applied.
2. The City Council does not comment on the specific employment status and dates of service of individual employees as such data is considered personal to those employees and such as to have no reasonable expectation of disclosure to the public. Section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is therefore applied.
3. No.
4. A combination of internal secondment and external advertisement.
5. The City Council does not comment on the specific operational assignment of individual employees nor is there a reasonable expectation that the activities and responsibilities of individual employees would routinely be disclosed. Section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is therefore applied.
6. LFH maintains minimal staffing in order to manage the property that it holds in ownership.
7. Payments were made as follows;
 - £750,000 paid on 22/3/19
 - £170,000 paid on 31/3/19
 - £1,717,690 paid on 24/9/20
8. The company was a dormant company and had incurred no costs and had no staff Board members remuneration;
 - F Hont – £15,300 per annum from 1 November 2018 to 30 September 2020
 - M Howard – £10,200 per annum from 1 November 2018 to 30 September 2020
 - A Titterington – £10,200 per annum from 1 November 2018 to 30 September 2020

9. The accounts for the period 1 November 2018 to 31 March 2020 were filed at Companies House on 5 February 2021. Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is applied on the basis that this information is already publicly available and reasonably accessible to you at –
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/companies-house>

This concludes our response. As we have applied Sections 21 and 40(2) 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: 0303-123-1113. 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