



Please ask for: Cristina Portugal
Reference: 38255001
Email:
kcc.information@email.icasework.com
Date: 26 June 2023

Dear Rachel

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 relating to LOBO loans. Please see the response provided below:

1. Please could you tell me what KCC used the £90 million of LOBO loans for?

I am writing to advise you that, following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is not held by Kent County Council (KCC) as borrowing to fund capital infrastructure investments is undertaken on the whole capital programme rather than individual projects. In addition, from time to time KCC takes up opportunities to refinance loans at better rates. For these reasons it is not possible to answer the question about what the £90m of LOBO loans have been used to fund.

2. Please could you say if revenue generated from Council Tax is used to service the interest on the LOBO loans?

Council tax is one of the sources for funding KCC's revenue budget (the revenue budget includes the cost of financing capital borrowing). Other sources include general un-ringfenced grants from central government and retained business rates income. We publish a high level picture of how council tax is spent on KCC's website <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/finance-and-budget/council-tax#tab-1>, although this is a notional calculation for illustrative purposes. This identifies that £149.41 of the typical band D charge goes towards the Council's borrowing costs, these borrowing costs include LOBO loans, although, these are only a relatively small proportion of the Council's overall debt portfolio.

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-10> on our website. Please quote reference 38255001.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you can appeal to the Information Commissioner, who oversees compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Details of what you need to do, should you wish to pursue this course of action, are available from the Information Commissioner's website <http://ico.org.uk/concerns>

I will now close your request as of this date.

Yours sincerely

Cristina Portugal
Information Access Officer
Chief Executive's Department