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Your ref:

Our ref: IR14661627 of EIR11237679



16-MAR-12

Nick James [request-96671-bbc7081b@whatdotheyknow.com]

Dear Mr. James

## **ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REQUEST- INTERNAL REVIEW**

You requested an internal review of our response to your request for information. In your email of 17 February 2012, you expressed dissatisfaction with our response: You stated:

**Please give me answers to points eight onwards. There has been no real attempt to answer these questions and given the amount of time it has taken to produce the documents that you have I am most concerned as to why this is.**

Here is what our initial response stated.

**You requested:** 8. Details of what experience Visit County Durham Staff have of managing large events.

**Our response:** The Council commissioned Artichoke, a professional events management company, to run the event. They, in turn, commissioned a Crowd Management Consultant to handle the crowd safety for the event.

You are correct; the response was not as robust or as clear as it should have been at the time. What we should have said is that the experience of the officers involved is personal information and is therefore exempt under regulation 13 of the Environmental Information regulations. The officers involved would not expect their experience or background to be disclosed in the public domain in this way. Therefore, it would not be disclosed as it would violate the first data protection principle that information be processed fairly and lawfully.

As we explained in our initial response, Artichoke were hired because of their previous experience in running large scale events, such as Lumiere. Their website and promotional material showcase their background and experience in these areas. Our officers, as we explained, worked along side them after commissioning their service to produce the event.

In regard to your other questions, we did answer these as requested.

For **question 9**, we refused to provide the personal information and we are upholding that decision. The information requested is personal information and it would not be expected to be disclosed by the Council.

For **question 10**, we provided the Chief Executive's emails, and there is nothing else to add to it.

For **question 11**, we explained that you were asking for a statement of an opinion, Requests that asks the Council to offer an opinion fall outside the Act. As we stated previously, the Council and its partners have not yet decided on what the next event will be.

I hope that the response has answered your question. If you would like to appeal, then your next step is to contact the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
Telephone: 01625 545 745  
Fax: 01625 524 510  
Email: [casework@ico.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:casework@ico.gsi.gov.uk)

Yours faithfully,

David Taylor  
Deputy Monitoring Officer