



South Tyneside Council

John Robertson
request-147070-6fb98ff7@whatdotheyknow.com

Date: 1st October 2013
Our Ref: FOI 13 12195

Dear Mr Robertson

Internal Review: Freedom of Information Request FOI 13 12195

On 30th September 2013, South Tyneside Council received your request to conduct an internal review of your Freedom of Information request reference FOI 12195.

Your original request asked for

“Would you please provide me with a breakdown of the amount of complaints which have been made against the Leader since he took office.

Would you please provide me with a complete breakdown of all payments / allowances / expenses paid to the Leader during the previous financial year.”

The internal review of your request was held on 30th September 2013. The Review Panel consisted of Mike Harding (Head of Legal Services). Dave Patterson (Information Governance Team) provided information, but did not take any part in the review decision making process.

The Panel when making its decision considered the history of your original request and the responses provided to you by the Council.

The Council's original response to your request is shown below:

“Having taken legal advice, the Council has refused this particular request and relies upon Section 14 of the Freedom of Information Act 1998 as it considers that it is vexatious”.

Internal Review Response

The Internal Review Panel agreed to uphold the original FOI Request response that your Freedom of Information Request was vexatious and may cause harm or harassment.

Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of my internal review, you can write to the Information Commissioner to ask for an independent appeal of the Council's decision. The Information Commissioner is the Government's Independent Body responsible for overseeing the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Please do note the ICO will only review cases that have exhausted the Council's internal review procedures. All correspondence to the ICO must quote the Council's reference number and the reasons for your appeal.

The ICO's contact details are as follows: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF. More information can be found on the ICO's website at www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

If you have any further queries about this matter then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Mike Harding
Head of Legal Services
South Tyneside Council