



South Tyneside Council

John Robertson
request-160286-e5f90a9d@whatdotheyknow.com

Date: 26th September 2013
Our Ref: FOI 13 12530

Dear Mr Robertson

Internal Review: Freedom of Information Request FOI 13 12530

On 23rd September 2013, South Tyneside Council received your request to conduct an internal review of your Freedom of Information request reference 12530.

Your original request asked for

Please provide me with all of the payments made to the Leader of the Council in the past 12 months to date, these could be-

Expenses, Disbursements, Allowances, One off payments

These payments could be paid by cheque or direct in to a bank account or in cash to his personal account or to somebody elses bank account.

Would you also please advise me what transport/ vehicle costs have been incurred by the Council over the past 12 months to date on behalf of the Leader and his family i.e. Flights / Trains / Vehicles / taxis?

What is the make / model of the vehicle supplied to the Leader?

Costs of vehicle provided purchase price / Lease charges.

Date he took delivery of the vehicle?

What was the mileage on delivery?

What is mileage to date?

Fuel incurred since delivery?

Mileage accrued / claimed since he took delivery of the vehicle?

Copies of fuel receipts / charges for the vehicle which the Leader has the use of over the past 6 months?

What are the limitations of use of the vehicle provided to the Leader ?

Evidence of any repairs / parking charges / fines against the Leaders vehicle over the past 12 months”.

The internal review of your request was held on 24th September 2013. The Review Panel consisted of Mike Harding (Head of Legal Services), Gill Hayton (Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer), Paul Robinson (Corporate Lead Corporate Affairs) and Dave Patterson (Information Governance Team) attended the review hearing for the purposes of providing information and answering queries from the Panel, 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 it to be 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 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.

Yours sincerely

**Mike Harding
Head of Legal Services
South Tyneside Council**