



## South Tyneside Council

John Robertson  
[request-171791-125f7b70@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-171791-125f7b70@whatdotheyknow.com)

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> September 2013  
Our Ref: FOI 13 12805

Dear Mr Robertson

### **Internal Review: Freedom of Information Request FOI 12 12805**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2013, South Tyneside Council received your request to conduct an internal review of your Freedom of Information request reference 12805.

Your original request asked for **“Would you please forward me a breakdown of the costs incurred by the Council for the above services over the past 18 months.**

**Would you please inform me what these services were contracted for by the Council, I do not expect personal data in the response simply subject matter”.**

You asked for the internal review on the basis that you did not believe that the Council had provided you with an honest response to your request.

The internal review of your request was held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2013. The Review Panel consisted of Mike Harding (Head of Legal Services) and 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:

**South Tyneside Council has not incurred any costs for private detectives or investigators over the past 18 months**

### **Internal Review Response**

The Internal Review agreed that the Head of Legal Services would contact all Council Heads of Services to allow them to re-affirm that they had not used any Private Detectives / Investigators. This exercise has now been completed.

The Council does not hold the information that you have requested. We can confirm that our original response that South Tyneside Council has not incurred any costs for private detectives or investigators over the past 18 months is correct.

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](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk).

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

Yours sincerely

**Gill Hayton**  
**Solicitor & Deputy Monitoring Officer**  
**South Tyneside Council**