



South Tyneside Council

John Robertson
request-173138-33908000@whatdotheyknow.com

Date: 26th September 2013
Our Ref: FOI 13 12853

Dear Mr Robertson

Internal Review: Freedom of Information Request FOI 13 12853

On 19th September 2013, South Tyneside Council received your request to conduct an internal review of your Freedom of Information request reference 12853.

Your original request asked for **“Would you please provide me with a copy of the credit card statement for the Council card which has been issued to the following officers?**

Patrick Melia, Martin Swales, Mike Harding, Rick O’Farrell.

The relevant dates of these statements are April 2012 to March 2013, and March 2013 to August 2013”.

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 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.

Yours sincerely

Mike Harding
Head of Legal Services
South Tyneside Council