



Ms Enid Brighton

22 December 2015

By email only to request-304609-856529e5@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: IR136238

Dear Ms Brighton

Thank you for your request for information received on 26 November 2015.

This request is being handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Request

I have it on good authority that Council Tax summonses are not checked individually before they are issued.

Parameters are agreed in advance by the relevant manager and set in its Council Tax processing system relating to the number of days behind and the monetary value etc., and summonses are issued on this basis.

The process is therefore completely automated yet a cost of £122 is recharged to the defendant. I'm aware it is unlawful to recharge an amount to the defendant which exceeds the council's incurred expenditure.

I would therefore like disclosing exactly what expenditure is incurred in addition to the obvious costs of stationary and postage for the authority to arrive at a £122 sum.

Response

Please find attached documentation around the cost calculations as requested. Please be advised that the information has been approved by the court. We are aware of, and are considering the recent High Court ruling.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which your Freedom of Information request has been dealt with you can request an internal review. Tell us why you are unhappy with our response within 40 working days, and it will be looked at afresh. We will aim to provide you with our review response within 20 working days.

By email: foi@lambeth.gov.uk (Please quote the reference number above) or by writing to:

Freedom of Information
Olive Morris House
18 Brixton Hill
London
SW2 1RD

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Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Enquiry line: 0303 123 1113

Thank you for your interest in Lambeth Council.

Yours sincerely

Sara Thomas
Complaints & Information Officer
FOI team
London Borough of Lambeth

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