

Regeneration and Assets

London Borough of Bexley Civic Offices 2 Watling Street
Bexleyheath Kent DA6 7AT

www.bexley.gov.uk



m/r 4213596

Direct Dial

0203 045 4880

y/r

Date

10 July 2017

xxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxx.xxx.xx

The person dealing with this matter is:

Janet Stone

Mr Stuart Gamblin

Dear Mr Gamblin

Thank you for your request for information received on 22 May 2017 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Council has already responded in part and in relation to PFI School projects and this response relates to the Council's Leisure PPP project.

For ease of reference I have set out our responses under each question and highlighted in blue.

Your request:

Please answer the following for each PFI/PPP schemes in the local authority area treating each scheme as a separate request.

1. Please provide all documents showing how your organisation has responded to the findings contained in the report on Edinburgh Schools Construction by John Cole: including, but not limited to memos, emails, minutes, reports.

The London Borough of Bexley has three leisure centres which operate under a PPP contract with Boxwood Leisure. The PPP contractor has requested confirmation from the Building Contractor MJ Gleeson that the construction of the leisure centres does not repeat any of the failings that resulted in the collapse of the school building wall in Edinburgh and is currently awaiting a response.

2. I would like to understand the expertise and resource committed by your organisation to the management and oversight of PFI schemes from procurement through to ongoing contract operation. Please provide documents relating to the PFI Team(s) allocated to each project its makeup and structure of the team during each project phase. This may comprise terms of reference, organisation chart, post titles and role profiles.

During the project procurement stages a multi-disciplinary team was formed and consisted of:

Principal Architect

Head of Building Control and Property Services

Group Leader General Engineering and Buildings

Director of Education and Leisure

Former Assistant Financial Controller and subsequent Director of Finance

Assistant Legal Controller Financial Services
Principal Valuer
Leisure Project Manager (s)
Capital Development Project Managers

During the contract conclusion and construction phases this group was further supported by a representative construction and project development team from Boxwood Leisure and Gleeds Management Services who were jointly appointed by the Council and Boxwood Leisure to act as Independent Technical Advisors.

3. Provide the deed of appointment for the Independent Certifier and any other documents setting out the scope of that role. Please confirm the level of indemnity insurance and liability period.

We consider that the absolute exemption set out in Section 41 (1) (Information provided in confidence) applies to the information requested. Therefore, we have decided to withhold the information.

4. Please confirm whether your organisation employed a member of the Institute of Clerk of Works or an inspector of similar standing and assigned them to each construction site. If someone in this role was employed please confirm their level of qualification, the salary associated with this role and how much time was allocated to per project/site.

Yes, the Council provided a limited Clerk of Works function through their in house Architecture and Design Services department. The details regarding the Clerk of Works qualification, salary, and allocated time to this role are not readily retrievable as this information relates to the construction phase circa 2003. Any further in depth investigation would exceed the time allocation for this FOI enquiry.

5. Please provide a list of all enforcement or improvement notices served; investigations carried out and reports commissioned into fire safety (include dates and specify who commissioned or issued these. Please provide copies of all items listed.

To the best of our knowledge, no historic improvement notices were served by the Council in respect of fire safety. No recent notices have been issued in respect of fire safety. The PPP contractor has recently commissioned a survey into the passive fire safety arrangements at the three leisure centres and this required some additional maintenance work in relation to fire doors which is being undertaken by the Maintenance Contractor. The majority of this work has now been completed and the remaining items will be completed in the immediate future

6. Provide details of all attempts to make deductions relating to structural defects for each project. Confirm the amount, what it was for, and when the deduction was made)

No deductions have been applied relating to structural defects.

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can make a complaint and request a review by writing to:

Complaint and Freedom of Information Officer

London Borough of Bexley
Civic Offices
2 Watling Street
Bexleyheath
Kent
DA6 7AT

Or by email to xxx@xxxxxx.xxx.xx

You also have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone 0303 123 1133/01625 545 745
www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janet Stone', with a small dot at the end.

Janet Stone
Head of Communities and Leisure