



Information Governance Team
Resources
2nd Floor
7 Newington Barrow Way
Islington
N7 7EP
T 020 7527 8586
E foia@islington.gov.uk

request-467957-2344981c@whatdotheyknow.com

7th February 2019

Dear P Wharton

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REF No: **494565**

Thank you for your information request, received on 28th February 2018.

You requested the following information:

Question 1: I would like to know over the past three years what deductions have been made from councillor's allowances which have gone to a political party, group, or association.

Question 2: Could the council please break this amount by year and to which political party, group or association.

Response 1 and 2: The council holds the information that you have requested. However, Labour councillors currently have the same percentage of their gross allowances deducted from payroll. To release this information would be a breach of their personal data as it could be determined from the gross amount what each individual pays and therefore result in disclosure of their personal financial information. Although the aggregate totals constitute personal data, the council has also considered whether disclosure of this data would be permitted under Art.5(1) and Art.6(1)(f) GDPR. In conducting this analysis, the council has taken the following matters into consideration: the fact that the allowances were paid to councillors in their official capacities, the deductions were administered by a public authority, the purpose that disclosure would serve in terms of transparency and the expectations of privacy that councillors might reasonably be expected to have. The council has carefully weighed these considerations and decided that it would not be appropriate to disclose this personal data, and it is therefore considered exempt under section 40(2) (third party information) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. In accordance with Section 17 of the FOIA, this is a technical refusal notice.

Question 3: Does the council charge for making these payments to political parties, groups or associations? If so, how much?

Response 3: No

Question 4: Could the council clarify (if it is the case that there are payments) whether tax and NIC is applied to the allowances prior to the payments being made.

Response 4: Yes, tax and NIC is applied to the allowances prior to the payments being made.

Question 5: Could the council state the costs in terms of officer time and bank charges for transferring funds to political parties, groups or associations.

Response 5: This Information is not held and is not recorded in such a way to provide an answer. Additionally, with regards to officer time spent, this is incorporated within any officer's day to day duties and is also not recorded in such a way to provide an answer.

If you are not satisfied with the way in which your request has been handled or the outcome, you may request an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this response by contacting: Information Complaints, Digital Services, Room G17, Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD. Email: infocomplaints@islington.gov.uk

Further information is also available from the Information Commissioner's Office, at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone: 01625 545 700. Web: www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Information Governance Team

If you would like this document in large print or Braille, audiotape or in another language, please telephone 020 7527 2000.

