



Northamptonshire County Council

By Email
Jonathan Smith
request-558686-e3ad43eb@whatdotheyknow.com

Please ask for: Freedom of Information
Tel: 01604 638360
Our ref: FR9051
Your ref:
Date: 19.03.19

Dear Mr Smith,

Information Request: FR9051

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 6th March 2019. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act and is detailed below in italics with our response in bold.

(Please note the extract below has been taken directly from your original information request and is unedited).

Our Response

The Freedom of Information Team has been provided with the following information in response to your recent request on behalf of Northamptonshire County Council (NCC).

Please could you tell me who manages conservation at Northamptonshire Archives and are they on the collections management team or a similar team who make decisions on the collections?

Strategic decisions on conservation are made by the Head of Service. Collections management and basic preservation work are managed by the service's Operational Manager; the service has one Collections Officer.

Do you have in-house conservators or do you outsource all your conservation requirements to external conservation firms and if so, who and how much do you spend per year on this?

The service has no in-house conservation staff currently, March 2019.

Do you have any contract staff working in-house on external grant funded projects or do you send specific items out for specialist conservation?

There has been no grant-funded conservation work done since 2014/15.



If the conservation manager is a conservator do they make the conservation decisions for the collections or are these decisions made by the archivists without consulting with the conservator?

Not applicable.

If you do have conservators on staff, are any of them accredited conservators and do you support staff training, accreditation and continued professional development (CPD) to keep up conservation skills?

Not applicable

Do you have conservation volunteers working regularly at the record office? If so how many and do these volunteers undergo security checks or other checks? Are they managed by the in-house conservator/s or are they left to work on their own on the collections and be in the archive stores on their own?

Not applicable.

If you don't have in-house conservation staff do you have volunteers doing the skills of trained conservators?

No, volunteers cannot do the work of trained conservators.

Do you pay for any external conservation support via an annual membership fee such as that with National Conservation Service (NCS) or Harwell and if so how much per year do you spend or have spent on this service/s and any extra payments to them and what level of membership do you have?

Basic emergency support from Harwell £260 per annum

Level 2 membership with National Conservation Service £1,925 per annum.

How much is the annual budget for conservation and collection care, this would include items such as conservation materials, conservation packaging, conservation equipment and maintenance and staff training for conservation and collection care.

Budget currently under review. All NCC budgets are subject to controls under a Section 114 notice.

Do you also undertake any income generation for conservation where you offer your in-house conservation services to generate income for Northamptonshire County Council if so how much do you charge per hour and what has the income been in the last three years?

No.

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If you are unhappy with the response, you can ask the Council to review it. To do this please write to the address below:

Mr Simon Deacon
Reviewing Officer
Northamptonshire County Council
One Angel Square
Angel Street
Northampton
NN1 1ED

Email dataprotection@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk

If our internal review does not resolve the issue to your complete satisfaction, you have the right to apply to the information Commissioner for a decision at the following address:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Or, if you have any complaints in respect of your information request please complete the on-line comments form that can be found at www.northamptonshire.gov.uk, along with a full set of guidance.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information/Data Protection Team
Business Intelligence and Project Management
E-Mail- freedomofinformation@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk