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27th November 2020

Our Reference: FOI/HMW/22905

Dear Mr Smith

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000
REVIEW– REF 22905

I write further to your email dated 29th October 2020 requesting a review of the response to your request for information dated 12th October 2020.

Your original request was as follows:

1. I would like to know how much each school in the LA spent on temporary supply teaching and other supply staff from external supply teaching agencies from September 1st 2020 - 12th October 2020. I would like to know this information for each Nursery, Primary, Secondary and SEND school.
2. I would also, in addition to this, like to know which agency/s each school spent money with, broken down per school. As this information is not available on any Government website for this time period, this information is not already available, readily, to the public. I believe all LAs will have this information listed under 'E02' and 'E26'.

On 15th October the Council responded as follows:-

1. This information will be available at the end of November.
2. The Council does not hold any information about which supply agencies individual schools have used. Every school makes their own arrangements for supply.

You have made a request by email for a review of this response and made the following points in support of your application:

I am writing to request an internal review of Kirklees Borough Council's handling of my FOI request 'Supply Teachers (E02 and E26)'.

Requesting an internal review. Many other LAs have provided this information, and I do not feel your LA is unique or different to them. This information should be made available to the public.

As the person responsible for dealing with your request for a review of the refusal of the information you have requested I should make it clear that I had no involvement in the handling of your original request.

Review

I note that the Council has not refused the first part of your request but that the information was not available at the time of your request. I have asked for this to be further explained and can confirm that, in accordance with the national consistent financial reporting framework expenditure by schools on agency/supply staff must be reported. In Kirklees we require Schools to report monthly so that all the data from September must be reported by the end of October and so on. Therefore, at the point of your request we were yet to receive all the data for the requested period. However, we will be in a position to respond to this part of your request shortly and I have therefore passed this back to the Information Governance team to deal with once all the data has been received.

As for the details of each agency used I am informed this is not part of the reporting requirements and neither do we require schools to provide details of the agencies they have used. Therefore, the Council does not hold this data and I uphold the decision to refuse this part of the request.

I would also mention that the reporting requirements do not apply to academised schools and therefore we do not hold any information relating to your requests for these schools.

If you are not content with the outcome of my review then you have the right under section 50 of the 2000 Act to apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision as to whether your request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Information Commissioner's website is at www.ico.gov.uk and gives more information about the role and duties of the Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Helen Wilson
Solicitor
Senior Legal Officer
For Monitoring Officer