

FOI No: HBC_FOI_202110293	Authorised: YES
Due Date: 30 June 2021	
Response Prepared: 7 July 2021	
Response Despatched: 7 July 2021	

Contact address: request-761257-08e330a0@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Sir

I am writing in response to your Freedom of Information request received on 2 June 2021.

Your request has now been considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and we are able to respond as follows:

Your Request:

Please provide a breakdown by date order of all daily expense claims made and allowances received by Councillor Bright as Chairman of Elstree Studios by each claim made and daily allowance received including the amounts of all taxes paid by Elstree Studios for Councillor Bright's daily expense claims and allowances and any other monetary claims; the amount of these taxes paid by Elstree Studios in total; a copy of any council resolution authorising the payment of such taxes by Hertsmere council taxpayers; a copy of the legal basis and advice authorising the making such payments by council statutory officers or external advisors; a copy of any declaration made by Cllr Bright that his taxes were being paid by Elstree Studios to council officers including copies placed in the public register of interests; copies of any written instructions made by Councillor Bright that his taxes should be paid by Elstree Studios and a copy of any confirmation from the HMRC that the payment from public funds of a councillor's taxes was appropriate and lawful.

Our Response:

The Council hold information relevant to your request but declines to communicate that information to you as such information as the Council does holds and is able to disclose is available on the Council's FOI disclosure log. Please click on the link below to search the log.

<https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Your-Council/Official-Publications--Guides--Policies/Freedom-Of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

In addition, Councillor Bright's declarations of interest can be inspected on the Council's web site. Please click on the link below.

<https://hertsmere.moderngov.co.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=102>

Relevant Exemption(s)

As the Council has declined to communicate information that it holds relevant to your request, I am required to inform you of the exemptions upon which the Council relies.

Section 21 FOIA 2000- Information Accessible to the Requestor by Other Means

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not require the Council to disclose information that is reasonably accessible to the requestor by other means. In this case the information held by the Council relevant to this request has already been published by the Council in response to two earlier FOIA requests that can be inspected via the FOIA Disclosure Log on the Council's web site. In addition, information relating to Councillor Bright's declarations of interest can be inspected on the 'Councillor' pages of the Council's web site.

If you have any queries about the processing of your request then please do not hesitate to contact me. Further information explaining the Council's process for responding to information requests together with a complaints/appeals procedure is available in our reception or via our website at:

<https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Your-Council/Official-Publications--Guides--Policies/Access-to-Information.aspx>

The Information Commissioner oversees the application of the Freedom of Information Act. You may contact the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioners Office

Wycliffe House, Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 01625 545700

Website: www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please include the above reference number on all correspondence related to this request.

Thank you for your request.

Kind regards

Information Services