



South Tyneside Council

Robert Smith
request-128982-bad66da6@whatdotheyknow.com

Date: 29th January 2013
Our Ref: FOI 12 11876

Dear Mr Smith

Freedom of Information Request

I refer to your Freedom of Information Request received on 12th September 2012. The Council has undertaken a review of our Freedom of Information systems and it has been brought to my attention you may not have received a response to the information you requested. Although I appreciate your request was from September 2012. I have a duty under the Freedom of Information Act to provide the information and I sincerely apologise for the delay.

Your request asked for the following information:

Your Request

I am interested in the amounts paid by each school in South Tyneside, during 2011/12, to third parties in relation to temporary staffing cover. My hope is to receive an electronic breakdown of amounts paid (a) through the department's purchase ledger by school and (b) in grants, by grantee.

Council's Response

We can confirm the following information with regards your request above.

Temporary workers are employed as an option for short term staff cover; to cover periods of holiday, sickness or to ensure minimum statutory staffing levels are maintained (e.g. in care homes). The Council has a thorough recruitment gateway process where external agency spend is only authorised following scrutiny and is therefore considered the best value option.

Please find attached a list of the total amount spent on Staffing Cover by each school in the Local Authority. Each school is responsible for organising their own staffing cover and as such we are unable to break the amounts down into any further detail.

I hope this information is of assistance to you.

Copyright Procedure

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Internal Review Procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of this enquiry you can invoke the Council's internal review procedures to ask for an independent review of your request. All such requests must be sent to us within 4 weeks and must clearly state in writing your reference number and your reasons for your request for internal review.

The Information Governance Team can be contacted at the following address: Information Governance Team, Town Hall and Civic Buildings, Westoe Road, South Shields, Tyne and Wear, NE33 2RL.

Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)

Should you remain dissatisfied with the final outcome of the internal review process you can write to the Information Commissioner to ask for an independent review. The Information Commissioner is the Government's Independent Body responsible for overseeing the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Please do note the ICO will only review cases that have exhausted the Council's internal review procedures. All correspondence to the ICO must quote the Council's reference number and your reasons for your appeal.

The ICO's contact details are as follows: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF. More information can be found on the ICO's website at www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

If you have any further queries about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us on (0191) 424 6539, or by emailing foi@southtyneside.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Robinson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul Robinson
Corporate Affairs Lead

