



Date: 14th November 2016

Request for Internal Appeal for FOI5868

Reference: IA16045/ FOI5868

Links to: https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/the_agreement_group_relating_to#incoming-752594

Good Afternoon Mr Parry (request-309587-2ee93cd1@whatdotheyknow.com),

Thank you for your internal review requested on 29th April 2016 in relation to FOI5868. We are sorry to hear that you are dissatisfied with our response and have conducted an Internal Review as requested by yourself. The purpose of an internal review is an opportunity for an authority to revisit their response in the event of dissatisfaction from a requestor, it is not a method to enter into discussion about information held, or not held, by the council. An Internal Review is the last stage a public authority enters when looking at a FOI request, the next stage is referral to the Information Commissioner's Office.

On 8th January 2016 we received an FOI request in relation to "Agreement Group relating to BHCC and BHSCH Ltd":

"Please advise me of when the "Agreement Group" was established and if it currently exists or, if not, when it ceased functioning. Could you also provide details of membership together with dates and minutes of meetings".

A response was provided to you on 29th April 2016 as detailed below:

"There was no formal Agreement Group that we are aware of. We think the term in the letter was used informally to refer to an Internal Officer Meeting. There were officer meetings convened to discuss the suite of documentation which then fed into the negotiation meetings, in addition there were more formal meetings involving council members when developing Seaside Homes."

We then received your request for Internal Review of FOI5868 on 29th April 2016. Please find our response set out below:

"I am writing to request an internal review of Brighton and Hove City Council's handling of my FOI request 'The "Agreement Group" relating to BHCC and BHSCH Ltd'. There appears to be a desire to hide this information."

After reviewing the correspondence between yourself and BHCC and reviewing the provision of information given to you, I believe that your request was answered appropriately. However, I do note that you were not told whether the Council hold or do not hold this information. I can confirm that Brighton & Hove City Council do not hold this information. However, I note that you mention a letter between Jugal Sharma and Steve Bulbeck which featured this information, we are unable to trace this letter and as you may be aware Jugal Sharma no longer works for Brighton & Hove City Council, but I believe Steve Bulbeck is still the CEO of BHSCH. If you are able to tell me where you sourced the letter from I can look further into this for you.

This completes our response to your appeal.

If you remain dissatisfied with the Council's response, you are entitled to appeal the matter to the Information Commissioner's Office. The ICO is the national regulating agency for matters associated with Freedom of Information and may undertake to investigate on your behalf. Should you wish to avail yourself of this option; the ICO can be contacted in the following ways:



Website: <http://www.ico.org.uk>

Phone: 0303 123 1113

Post: Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Katie Rees
Information Governance Officer
Brighton & Hove City Council