

From:
Sent: 13 December 2013 13:39
To: information.governance@veritau.co.uk
Subject: FW: Freedom of Information CF6274
Attachments: Fol request - Appointment of chair of York at large 2.doc

I will send you the request and response asap

From: i
Sent: 13 December 2013 13:33
To: i
Subject: Re: Freedom of Information CF6274

Dear

Please find attached my request for a review of the reply to this FOI.

Best wishes

From: "foi@york.gov.uk" <foi@york.gov.uk>
To: "
Cc: "information.governance@veritau.co.uk" <information.governance@veritau.co.uk>
Sent: Thursday, 5 December 2013, 11:00
Subject: Freedom of Information CF6274

Please se attached the response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act.

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To:
From:
Date: 13 December 2013

Dear

FOI CF6274

Thank you for your reply to my FOI request.

I am afraid that I cannot agree with you that WOW and Nolan rules have not been broken. I therefore request a review of your response for the reasons I outline below.

You sent me unsigned and undated terms of reference for York@Large which you say were approved in June 2011. These terms of reference differ from those that were available to the public on the WOW website when I submitted my FOI request. I have no means of verifying their authenticity since the minutes for the meeting at which they were approved are not available.

From what you say, it seems that the current chair was appointed in conformity with terms of reference not in the public domain, and guided by 'precedence' instead of formal procedure. This is far from the openness that the Nolan principles require, and which all WOW board members are expected to observe.

Your assurance that the current chair did disclose his political leadership role when he was nominated in December 2012 has serious implications: a decision must have been made to exclude his declaration from the published minutes. The decision must have been approved by the out-going chair, as well as the current chair.

Disclosure of interests made behind closed doors is invalid - Nolan requires public disclosure, and this has not been made. Neither has any public declaration of the chair's current political activities been made. Declarations cannot be made retrospectively – they must be made at the time of nomination or appointment. What I had initially thought was a failure to disclose, now appears to be evidence perhaps of collusion to suppress disclosure.

Because I have my doubts about the 2011 terms of reference, their absence from the web site, and the absence of the 2011 minutes you refer to in your reply; and because it looks as though there may have been a deliberate exclusion from board minutes of the chair's declaration of leadership of a political party in York, I would be grateful if you would refer this FOI request to the information governance team for review.

On the evidence of your response, it seems clear to me that wrongdoing in public office may have taken place. The final decision will rest with the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

