



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 0115153
Date 27 February 2015

Minicabs

Request:

1) How many Minicab Drivers over the last 5 years to 2015; have been taken to Court for allegedly 'touting' plying for trade?

16

2) How much were/are the costs per prosecution?

With reference to your above question regarding costs per prosecution, I can confirm that the Council holds information falling within the description specified in your request. However, Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows a public authority to refuse a request if the cost of providing the information to the applicant would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 as this information is not held centrally and we would therefore have to manually trawl through our records individually to extract the information requested for the last 5 years.

The Regulations provide that the appropriate limit to be applied to requests received by local authorities is £450 (equivalent to 2.5 days of work). In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

“(a) determining whether it holds the information,

(b) locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,

(c) retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information,
and

(d) extracting the information from a document containing it”.

For the purposes of the estimate the costs of performing these activities should be estimated at a rate of £25 per hour.

As such I believe that the aggregated time that it would take to collate the information would be in excess of 18 hours (equivalent to a notional cost of £450).

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

3) In the same period, including legal and officer attendances, what was the total costs incurred by the tax payer?

Please see response to question 2.

4) Of those cited for allegedly 'touting' plying for trade, how many were successfully prosecuted?

All were successful.

5) How many/active pending Court hearings for alleged 'touting' plying for trade?

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