



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 02152
Date 2 March 2015

Staff training

Request:

"I would like to know how much the council spent on staff training sessions and other courses over the past two years."

The expenditure incurred on training in the last two financial years and current financial year to date is identified below. These figures have been established by collating spend against standard training expenses expenditure headings in the general ledger and exclude spending by schools.

2012/13 £1,152,404

2013/14 £1,099,975

2014/15 to date £514,526

"This is training, such as health and safety courses or other training sessions or conferences, that have been organised for staff across all departments.

I would also like details of what the courses were, where and when they were held and how much each cost the council.

I would like the information to include from the beginning of 2013 until the end of 2014."

With reference to your above question regarding details of courses or other training sessions or conferences, 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 2 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,

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

*(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).