

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

You asked:

I am writing to request details under the Freedom of Information Act on spending by councillors, senior council officers and other council staff using purchase cards/procurement cards/'p-cards'/council credit cards or similar

More specifically:

How many councillors are currently authorised to use purchase cards/procurement cards/'p-cards'/council credit cards or similar?

ANSWER: None

The total amount spent by councillors using purchase cards/procurement cards/'p-cards'/council credit cards or similar in 2011/12

Nil

The total amount spent by councillors using purchase cards/procurement cards/'p-cards'/council credit cards or similar in 2010/11

Nil

The total amount spent by councillors using purchase cards/procurement cards/'p-cards'/council credit cards or similar in 2009/10

£255.86

The total amount spent by councillors using purchase cards/procurement cards/'p-cards'/council credit cards or similar in 2008/09

£211.45

The total amount spent by councillors using purchase cards/procurement cards/'p-cards'/council credit cards or similar in 2007/08

Nil

Please also provide a copy of the card statements, 'management information' or line-by-line data for each card (in a xls or csv format)

giving a breakdown of the spending, including the name of the councillor/authorised card user(s), the date of each transaction, the merchant paid, the transaction amount, the transaction description and any other description held on record to explain each transaction.

Please find attached copies of card statements. Description of transaction will be on another sheet which is kept with each service area, and will not have corresponding identifying references. So marry these up to the statements would take over the 18 hours. Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for local government is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending more than 18 hours in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

We estimate it will take at least 40 hours to process your request. Each of the card statements has up to 50 transactions, and each one of these transactions will have the details in each service area within the council. We would have to cross reference thousands of transactions across hundreds of teams and service areas. The card statements only are kept centrally, once the authorisation has been accepted they return to the service area for their own audit trail and this is where the detail is recorded.

This is therefore a Refusal Notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act, because under the provisions of section 12.1 of the Act, the Council estimates that to comply with your request in its current form will exceed the appropriate limit.

We have also removed the more junior members staff names from the statements. We are withholding that information since we consider that to be an absolute exemption under section 40(2) (personal data), and this therefore constitutes a refusal under section 17 of the Freedom of information Act 2000.

How many senior council staff are currently authorised to use purchase cards/procurement cards/'p-cards'/council credit cards or similar?

One – Head of paid service only.

The total amount spent by senior council officers using purchase cards/procurement cards/'p-cards'/council credit cards or similar in 2011/12

£2,347.05

The total amount spent by senior council officers using purchase cards/procurement cards/'p-cards'/council credit cards or similar in 2010/11

£1,957.78

The total amount spent by senior council officers using purchase cards/procurement cards/'p-cards'/council credit cards or similar in 2009/10

£7,202.35

The total amount spent by senior council officers using purchase cards/procurement cards/'p-cards'/council credit cards or similar in 2008/09

£23,048.57

The total amount spent by senior council officers using purchase cards/procurement cards/'p-cards'/council credit cards or similar in 2007/08

£5,694.87

Please also provide a copy of the card statements, 'management information' or line-by-line data for each card (in a xls or csv format) giving a breakdown of the spending, including the name of the senior council officer/authorised card user(s), the date of each transaction, the merchant paid, the transaction amount, the transaction description and any other description held on record to explain each transaction.

Please find attached copies of card statements. Description of transaction will be on another sheet which is kept with each service area, and will not have corresponding identifying references. So marry these up to the statements would take over the 18 hours. Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for local government is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending more than 18 hours in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

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an absolute exemption under section 40(2) (personal data), and this therefore constitutes a refusal under section 17 of the Freedom of information Act 2000.

How many other council staff are currently authorised to use purchase cards/procurement cards/'p-cards'/council credit cards or similar?

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The total amount spent by other council staff using purchase cards/procurement cards/'p-cards'/council credit cards or similar in 2011/12

£130,258.98

The total amount spent by other council staff using purchase cards/procurement cards/'p-cards'/council credit cards or similar in 2010/11

£82,448.27

The total amount spent by other council staff using purchase cards/procurement cards/'p-cards'/council credit cards or similar in 2009/10

£55,443.44

The total amount spent by other council staff using purchase cards/procurement cards/'p-cards'/council credit cards or similar in 2008/09

£51,379.71

The total amount spent by other council staff using purchase cards/procurement cards/'p-cards'/council credit cards or similar in 2007/08

£35,696.82

Please also provide a copy of the card statements, 'management information' or line-by-line data for each card (in a xls or csv format) giving a breakdown of the spending, including the name of the council worker/authorised card user(s), the date of each transaction, the merchant paid, the transaction amount, the transaction description and any other description held on record to explain each transaction.

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The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use. Please be aware that any commercial or other use, for example publication, sale, or redistribution may be a breach of copyright under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 as amended unless you obtain the copyright holder's prior permission.

Not all the information that is supplied which is covered by copyright will be the Council's copyright, for example it may be the copyright of a government department or another Council. You should seek either the Council's consent or their consent as appropriate. The Council is willing to advise you of any such potential issues on request. In order to make a request to re-use the information please contact the Information Governance Manager using the details below.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

**Information Governance Manager
Information and Customer Access**

**Leicester City Council
FREEPOST (LE985/33)**

**New Walk Centre
LEICESTER LE1 6ZG**

e-mail: info.requests@leicester.gov.uk

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow SK9 5AF

Telephone: 01625 545 700

www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider appeals or complaints until the internal appeals and complaints processes of the public authority which is answering the request have been exhausted. You are therefore advised to complain or appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.