

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:

In April 2012 David Morris of the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) wrote to the Chief Executive of 100 local authorities offering a grant of £100,000 to be used to offset the impact of the rising level of vacant premises in your town centre.

You were one of the billing authorities offered such grant.

The following request is, therefore, made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:-

- **Did your billing authority accept the grant?**
This sum of money was accepted.
- **If so, of the £100,000 paid how much of that grant as at 31st January 2013 has been physically spent?**
None has yet been spent.
- **Please provide a breakdown and summary of how that grant has been physically spent including date of payment, amount of payment and what exactly the payment was for.**
N/A – see above.
- **Please provide details and evidence as to how your billing authority is benchmarking the success of the grant.**
N/A until there is an agreed plan to spend it. There is an agreed priority for the use of the money which is to support improvements to the Malcolm Arcade - a city centre retail arcade owned by the council which provides a link from the High Street to Leicester Market. The Arcade is occupied by independent retailers and the planned improvements which are being finalised in consultation with the independent retailers will improve the trading environment which in turn should attract increased footfall to the Arcade. It is further intended to offer space to independent retailers currently trading in the indoor market. Detailed design options have been commissioned from architects to generate options on how the arcade could be developed but no decisions have been taken yet on which option will be pursued. The street at the entrance to Malcolm Arcade is currently being pedestrianised to encourage improved footfall circulation in this area. This work was programmed in advance of the improvements to Malcolm Arcade to reduce the disruption to the tenants. Once the approved scheme has been agreed success indicators will be identified for it but that hasn't been done yet.

- **The grant was to focus on bringing empty shops back into use. How many empty shops have been brought back into use in your billing authority area and how have you collate that data?**
N/A – see above. The presentation of empty shops that currently do not have interest from potential tenants has been improved in the meantime through the installation of vinyl graphics creating the Richard III Window Walk which tells the history of King Richard III whose remains have recently been found in Leicester. This has been funded from a separate budget.

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.