

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:

The council policy or constitution regarding what legal action council funds can be used to pursue. I would expect this to cover details such as who the claimants can be, any limits on funding, whose agreement is needed before action can commence and so on. Please also tell me when the policy was put in place.

ANSWER:

Our constitution at Article 15.03 authorises the Monitoring Officer and the three Heads of Law to institute, prosecute, defend, participate in or settle any proceedings where such action is necessary to give effect to decisions of the Council or to protect the Council's interests. It does not set limits on funding or specify who the claimants should be. I believe it has been around since 2000.

How much has the council spent on legal fees in each of the financial years 2012/13 (to the end of January 2013), 2011/12 and 2010/11?

Financial Year	Solicitor Payments	Barrister Payments
2010/11	£313.2k	£427.9k
2011/12	£249.0k	£418.4k
2012/13 to 31-Jan-13	£193.5k	£275.8k

Of these totals, how much has the council spent on legal fees in cases involving alleged libel, slander or other defamation against the council or individual members of staff or officers of the council?

£3750 + £150 Court Fee in one case 2010/11

How many of these cases were there in each year?

One case for 2010/11 as above.

Who was allegedly defamed, and how much was spent in each case?

Head teacher of Community Maintained Primary School, via offensive website created by parent. Costs as above.

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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.