

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 would be grateful if you could provide me with the following information for each of the financial years 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 regarding benefit fraud and Leicester City Council:

1. How much the Council spent on counter-fraud activities?

For the last three financial years the salary spend has been 384,539.99 per annum.

2. How many full-time equivalent staff work on counter-fraud activities?

For the last three financial years there have been 11.42 Full time equivalent.

3. What is the estimated cost of fraud against benefits administered by the Council?

The most accurate figures we can provide is the amount of overpaid benefit identified as a result of the benefit fraud investigations.

2010/11 = £439,180.16

2011/12 = £919,726.71

2012/13 = £925,627.15

4. How much benefit fraud the Council recovered?

To provide an accurate figure of the total amount over the last five years would require an officer to manually look at some 787 cases and determine the amount of overpaid benefit outstanding and as such 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 2.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

We estimate that it will take us in excess of 2.5 working days to determine appropriate material and locate, retrieve and extract the information in reference to your request. Therefore, your request will not be processed further.

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 Support
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.