

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - Celebrity Appearances

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

You asked:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please can you give me details on the amount of money spent hiring celebrities. They may have been hired to present awards, record video/audio clips, turn on Christmas lights, visit a local school or for any other purpose.

Going back to May 6, 2010, please state:

- 1) Which celebrity was hired to make an appearance**
- 2) What they were hired to do**
- 3) When they were hired**
- 4) How much they were paid**
- 5) Were they given anything in lieu of payment – eg night in a hotel, cab fares etc**
- 6) In some instances a celebrity may have asked the money be paid to charity. If you have a record of this, please say**

I would like this FOI to capture any celebrities turning on Christmas lights this year. By the time you are obliged to reply to this FOI it will be early December and I am sure you will have held a switch-on event. If you have hired a celebrity, please provide details of this.

In some instances the council may have given another body – eg the local chamber of commerce – money to hire the celebrity. Please include these within your response – the key thing is this is funded by the local authority.

In our modern age, the definition of “celebrity” is open to many different interpretations. For the purpose of this FOI, a celebrity is not the local mayor. It is the local MP, it is anyone who has appeared on reality television, it is the local radio presenter and it is a well-known author (eg JK Rowling and not a self-published novelist). I hope that guidance assists.

Please find a list of celebrities that have been paid a fee by the council since 6th May 2010 in this time frame as follows:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 17/11/2010 Celebrating Success | - Des Coleman (Presenter) |
| 15/12/2010 Stars in the Making 2010 | - Des Coleman (Presenter) |
| 16/11/2011 Celebrating Success | - Cory Mghee (Presenter) |
| | - Melody Hussain (Guest speaker) |
| | - Jeremy Edwards (Host) |

01/12/2011 Stars in the Making 2011 - Cory Mghee (Presenter)
28/11/2012 Celebrating Success - Des Coleman (Presenter)
- MK1 (Celebrity performance)
06/12/2012 Stars in the Making 2012 - Des Coleman (Presenter)
22/04/2013 Foster Carers Awards - Des Coleman (Presenter)
18/10/2013 Black History Month - Floella Benjamin (Guest Speaker)

The amount that was paid to each celebrity is exempt under s40(2) of the FOI Act as it is their personal data and therefore this is a refusal notice for that information.

The Council has no record of whether any of the celebrities have donated their fee to charity. Therefore this part of the letter acts as a refusal notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because, in accordance with section 1.1 of the Act, this information is not held by Leicester City Council.

The Council does not hold information about when these celebrities were hired. Therefore this part of the letter acts as a refusal notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because, in accordance with section 1.1 of the Act, this information is not held by Leicester City Council.

Since 2008 Leicester City Council has not hired in any celebrities to switch on the Christmas lights. It has traditionally been Leicester's Lord Mayor, therefore there are no charges associated with this.

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: FOIA@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 Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.