

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:

It would be very helpful if you could clarify following queries arising from your response please. Your response is in quotes.

Q2) 'Money was not disbursed from City Council to LCOF in this way.'

Please give details how the money was disbursed to LCOF. Also the specification you have sent me is for the year 2013/14.

As the Council has given funding to the tune of £25,000 pa, give me the information for previous years with their special specifications attached to the funding please.

ANSWER:

The money was provided in accordance with a funding agreement in quarterly payments. The funding was not broken down to specific inputs such as staff and non-staff costs but on the basis of delivery of the outcomes set out in the specification. In previous years the £25,000 funding has been provided on the same basis as in 2013/14. The specification for 2012/13 is attached.

Q5) 'Please see attached document which is a specification of the Council's requirements'

This, as far as I can tell, is not an SLA or a contract with LCOF. The specification would normally be part of an SLA or a Contract which has to be signed by both the Parties i.e The City Council and LCOF.

Has the Council signed a contract or Agreement with LCOF? If yes can I please have a copy of that contract.

The Council of Faiths have signed a funding agreement with the City Council, the specification forms part of that funding agreement. Please find attached contract.

I can confirm that we also hold names and signatures in the contract. However 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.

If not can you let me know what is the Council's policy on giving of funding without signing an SLA or a contract with third sector voluntary organisations?

The Council requires an appropriate signed agreement to be in place in all circumstances.

Q6) You have sent me the copy of specifications. The question was also on monitoring of the outcomes specified in the specification.

This monitoring information is missing in your response. If it helps, I refer you to para H, K and L in the specification which may help you with your response. Have the requirements of para H, K and L been fulfilled? Para H is very interesting as it specifies the organisations with which LCOF should be working with. Please note that The British Hindu Voice is mentioned in this partnership working arrangements.

Has the Council monitored whether or not this has happened? If so what was the outcome?

Your previous request simply asked “whether the City Council monitor the outcomes specified in the contract? What are these outcomes that the Council is monitoring?” Our response confirmed that these outcomes are monitored quarterly and provided details of those outcomes. In undertaking the quarterly monitoring the Council has been satisfied that the Council of Faiths has met the requirements of the specification.

In relation to section H the Council’s intent in relation to this section is to set an expectation that the Council of Faiths is able to evidence partnership working across a wide range of organisations. In monitoring performance the Council has been satisfied that the Council of Faiths has demonstrated that it seeks to engage with a wide range of partner organisations in its activities.

Q7) 'The Council does not have a copy of the Constitution'.

What is the Council's policy on giving funding to third sector voluntary organisations without checking whether or not they have a constitution?

Requirements are determined during tendering and contracting processes and are dependent upon the nature of the services expected. It would be fair to say that the Council would typically expect to see evidence of robust governance arrangements but this can take many forms including evidence for example of Board membership and Annual General Meetings.

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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

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Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700
www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

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