

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Travellers

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

You asked:

1. **For the last financial year (12/13) how much has your council spent on**

(a) legal fees*,

The council have not incurred any external legal fees or court costs in the last financial year.

(b) removing and cleaning up and**

The council spent £2,400.00 in the financial year 2012/13 on removing and cleaning up sites illegally occupied by travellers.

(c) safeguarding and protecting sites* within your authority which have been moved on to illegally**** by travellers.**

The council spent £1,420.13 in the financial year 2012/13 on safeguarding & protecting sites.

***Legal fees means court fees and any external fees that you have had to pay for advice in relation to removing travellers from sites when they have illegally moved on to or developed.**

****Means the expenses of removing waste and cleaning up. Do not include the time of council employees but do include the wages of any temporary or contracted staff brought in to help in any clean up operation.**

*****safeguarding and protecting sites means what measures you have taken to ensure that a return to said site is made impossible or more difficult**

******Illegal sites means either owned by the council where the travellers did not have permission to be OR privately owned sites (perhaps owned by travellers) that had been developed in breach of planning or development rules.**

2. **In relation to the single period of encampment that cost the council the most money please provide me with details of when the campment arrived and dispersed, how many caravans were involved, where it was, whose land it was and a breakdown of the council costs.**

Safeguarding & protecting sites -

Campment arrived 6th June 2012 and remained for 3 days. There were 9 Vans in total and the land (Bennion Road) belonged to LCC (Highways). The costs to safeguard & protect the site was £1,050.00.

Removal and cleaning up sites -

a) The most expensive in relation to a single clean-up was on 14th September 2012 for removal of Asbestos, the cost being £500. Campment arrived 4th July 2012 and remained for 295 days. There were 7 vans in total and the land (Thurcaston Road) belonged to LCC (Highways).

b) The most expensive clean-up of general waste was £49.78. Campment arrived 2nd April 2012 and remained for 7 days. There was one Van in total and the land (Hoods Close) belonged to LCC (Highways).

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.