

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Public Health Spending

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

You asked:

1. Expressed (a) as an amount and (b) as a percentage of your total public health grant, how much of your public health grant did you spend in 2013/14 in total as a combination of all the following:

- (i) transfers to your general cash limit;
- (ii) employment of staff who had previously been employed by the council and paid for from general funds;
- (iii) provision of services that had previously been paid for by the council from general funds;
- (iv) maintenance of equipment or premises that had previously been maintained from general funds;
- (v) any other way by which the grant is used to substitute for an expenditure of general fund.

Please do not include in your total:

- (vi) overheads costed in your public health grant baseline and now undertaken by the council;
- (vii) staff transferred from old jobs elsewhere in the council to jobs in public health;
- (viii) premises and equipment previously used for one purpose and now used for a new public health purpose;
- (ix) public health outcomes secured by general council services;
- (x) situations where public health grant pays only for an expansion of the existing service.

Answer:

2013/14 was the first year in which the Council had responsibility for public health services. Our approach since that time has been to approach our new duties holistically, and seek to understand how much of what we previously did complements the new responsibilities; and to use the council's total resources to best effect to improve the health of the population.

In 2013/14 all funding was spent on public health programmes and initiatives in line with the health needs of the population of Leicester City and the conditions of the public health grant.

The 2013/14 spend information will be published by the DCLG as part of the Revenue Outturn documents and when published can be found at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-authority-revenue-expenditure-and-financing>

This information is therefore exempt under section 22 of the Act (intended for future publication) and this therefore constitutes a refusal under section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

2. For each service which you previously paid for out of general funds and which you now pay for out of public health grant (please do not include services where public health grant has only paid for an expansion):

- (i) what is the service?
- (ii) how much public health grant do you spend on it?
- (iii) under what statutory local government power did you previously pay for this service out of your general funds (a general description like "road safety powers" will suffice)?
- (iv) under what health service power do you now pay for it?
- (v) briefly how did you conclude that the latter was more appropriate than the former?
- (vi) are any charges made?

As per question 1.

3. Considering the items which we excluded from the above calculation in 1(vi) to 1(x), please roughly estimate to the nearest f0.25m how much your Councils general fund benefited from such expenditure.

(a) recurrently (eg overheads absorbed without extra cost to the council) and

No benefit.

(b) non-recurrently (eg redundancy costs avoided by moving a member of staff to a new job in public health).

No benefit.

In each case please give a brief one paragraph narrative of how these benefits accrued. We think that "to the nearest £0.25m" should allow you to conduct a quick rough calculation rather than a detailed one. If not, please give us the best estimate you can without a detailed calculation and indicate roughly the degree of accuracy you think you have achieved.

Not applicable – No benefit accrued to the Council.

4. We are also interested to know how far local authorities have acquainted themselves with

- (i) the significance of public health within local authorities being part of the health service
- (ii) the implications for your use of health service money of the Secretary of States duty to provide a comprehensive health service
- (iii) the extent to which your duty under section 2B of the National Health Service Act influences your general decision making

We would accept as an answer to this EITHER a short consensus statement by your DPH and Director of Finance as to how much thought and attention has

been given to each of these issues OR a search for references to any of these items through all minutes, notes, e mails, papers and other documents relating to the public health transition or public health grant budgets or public health spending or planning with provision of an extract wherever this is found. The former less detailed statement would be easier for you to put together and more useful for us but, as it is an opinion rather than a fact, it is not an enforceable FOI request. Hence the second alternative which is a legitimate FOI request.

[This is information not held under the Act.](#)

5. Is your authority aware of the BMA's campaign for a substantial increase in public health grant, has it expressed any opinion about that campaign, and has the existence of the campaign, the need to support it and the need not to undermine it influenced any decisions you have made. As in Q4 please answer either by a short statement or by a search, with the former being preferred and also being simpler. In this case if you reply by providing a statement we would be happy for it to come from any one of the DPH, Director of Finance, Chief Executive, Leader or Executive Councillor.

[We are not aware of the BMA Campaign nor have we been able to find any accessible link on the BMA website to information about the campaign.](#)

The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use, or for journalistic purposes. If the information is a dataset (which does not relate to the environment), you may also use the information for commercial re-use under an [Open Government Licence](#).

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

Information Governance Manager
Information and Support
Leicester City Council
Bosworth House
9 – 15 Princess Road West
LEICESTER LE1 6TH
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 may also seek independent advice from 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 requests until the internal appeals process of the Council has been exhausted. You are therefore advised to appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.