

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:

Please could you provide an Excel spreadsheet detailing all payments that the council has made to any Christian churches, Christian ministries or other Christian worship groups (i.e. any organisation whose primary purpose is religion - NOT any organisation with a religious element at all, e.g. NOT Christian schools, etc.)

"Payments" should include any money transfers at all, including grants, loans and payment for work/services, etc. I would like this information dating back for the last five financial years (i.e. 2007/'08 - 2011/'12).

For each payment, please state (a) the amount of money, (b) the name of the recipient and (c) the date of the payment. (NB: if the payment has been agreed but is yet to be fully paid, please simply give the date the payment was agreed upon). I would also be very grateful for any additional information regarding the payments, such as the purpose of the payments if this is available. However, if getting this information would be too time-consuming for FOI limits, details about the reasons for the payments may be omitted.

ANSWER:

We have over 156,000 invoices paid per annum via the Exchequer Team. We would need to look into each invoice separately to see if any payments have been made to any Christian churches, Christian ministries or other Christian worship groups. If we allowed for 1 minute only for the last year it would still take over 2600 hours. 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 more than 18 hours in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

This is therefore a Refusal Notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act, because under the provisions of section 12.1 of the Act, the Council estimates that to comply with your request in its current form will exceed the appropriate limit.

You can however look at our website where we publish all invoices over £500. We have provided the link below.

<http://www.leicester.gov.uk/about-us/data/supplierpaymentsover500/>

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

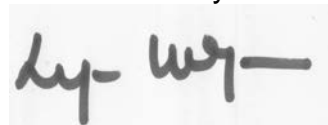
Wilmslow SK9 5AF

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 the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.

Yours sincerely



Lynn Wyeth

Information Governance Manager