

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:

1. Please tell me what the total amount spent on gypsies/traveller communities each year. This includes everything from clean-ups, legal costs, security, facilities, electricity, water, internet etc. If this is not possible, please give an estimate or your yearly budget, each year since 2008.

Dealing with illegal travellers is the responsibility of a Leicestershire County Council Multi Agency Unit (MATU). Leicester City Council makes a funding contribution to this agency along with the County and District Councils to cover staffing and running costs. Whilst the City Council still cleans up any traveller sites where necessary and incurs the costs, they are not separately identifiable. The legal costs associated with eviction are met by MATU.

The costs that we are aware of are:

2008/09 - £35,822.16 which includes legal costs & clearing up costs

2009/10 - £21,639.41 which includes legal costs & clearing up costs

2010/11 - £1,534.06 which includes clearing up costs

2. How many traveller/gypsy encampments (legal and illegal) have been reported each year since 2008. Please break down per year.

Attached is the list of illegal encampments since the start of 2009, equating to 43 in 2009, 25 in 2010 and 25 in 2011. In 2008 there were 10 unauthorised encampments.

3. What was the total cost of clean-ups (this includes litter picking, removal of illegal dumping, cleaning up after sites are evacuated ETC) in relation to legal and illegal gypsy/traveller encampments each year since 2008? Please break down by year and detail what this involved.

See answer to 1.

4. What was the total cost of security (eg CCTV camera installation) and legal costs in relation to traveller communities each year since 2008? Please break this down per year and detail what this involved.

See Answer to 1

5. What was the total cost of toilets, running water, heating, electricity and any other necessities in relation to traveller communities each year since 2008 (please breakdown year by year)? Please specify what services were provided.

See Answer to 1

6. What other equipment and facilities have been provided for gypsy/traveller communities? This could include any of the following: storage facilities, appliances, furniture, laptops, wifi, kitchens, vehicles etc.

None

7. How much was spent on 'cultural awareness training' and/or 'Equality and Diversity Training for council workers since 2008? (By this I mean any training specific to the dealings gypsy and traveller people). Please break this down per year and detail what this training entailed.

Leicester City Council provide LCC staff with Equality & Diversity training however this is not specific to Gypsy & travellers. The only direct cost associated to training as outlined in your question is £75 + VAT in 2011.

We have not included information relating to our permanent travellers site Meynells Gorse. If you require information regarding this legal site please let me know.

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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: 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.

Yours sincerely

Lynn Wyeth

Information Governance Manager