**FOIA 8917**

**Request:**

**I would like to request the amount that the council spends on the festivities in Leicester during the Navratri and Diwali celebrations for the last 10 years.**

Answer:

Please note there are several separate components to this expenditure:

* Funding to support Navratri which is paid as a grant to an external organisation and is approved as part of the City’s festivals programme.
* The cost of the Diwali Lights Switch On event, which is usually attended by around 35,000 people, and is organised and run by Leicester City Council
* The cost of the Diwali Day event, which is usually attended by around 35,000 people, and is organised and run by Leicester City Council
* The costs on both days include essential crowd safety measures because of the number of people who attend.
* The cost of providing and maintaining the festive lights on Belgrave Road. In 2014/15 these lights were extended because the Belgrave Road flyover was removed. This figure includes the £91,726 one off cost of new lights and lighting replacement
* The cost also reflects a current programme to update all festive lights used in the city to replace with cost saving LED systems. In addition, routine maintenance and setting up costs have been included. The Diwali lights are adapted at the end of the Diwali period so they become Christmas lights, but the full cost is included here.
* In 2014/15 therefore the total cost of the two Diwali events between them was £139,000. This was made up of £88,000 allocated council budget and the remainder made up of income generation. This has been the usual cost of the actual two events for a number of years.
* The figures for 2015/16 are not yet available because of the short time that has elapsed since Diwali.

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|  | **2015/16** | **2014/15** | **2013/14** | **2012/13** | **2011/12** | **2010/11** | **2009/10** | **2008/09** | **2007/08** | **2006/07** |
| **Diwali** | Not yet available | £274,046 | £167,361 | £136,816 | £123,945 | £149,615 | £135,135 | £120,461 | £128,267 | £106,261 |
| **Navratri** | £5,000 | £20,000 | £20,000 | £20,000 | £20,000 | £20,000 | £20,000 | £20,000 | £20,000 | £19,000 |