

From: [Foi Enquiries](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI-16-0628 - External Consultants
Date: 26 May 2016 10:01:06
Attachments: [Further Information - Right to Review & Appeal.pdf](#)

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your information request of 2 May 2016. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has completed the necessary search for the information requested.

Under the Freedom of Information (Scotland Act) 2002, please provide the following information:

Aberdeen City Council's annual spend on external consultants for each year from 2012 to date.

2012	£3,627,120
2013	£6,933,053
2014	£6,755,793
2015	£6,181,026
2016 (to date)	£8,922,750

Please note that this spend is based on invoices coded through as 'Consultant Costs' on our Finance system.

Please include a breakdown of the yearly figures to show who the consultant was, what project they were hired for, their specific cost, and the length of the contract.

By 'consultants', I was meaning any individuals or companies hired from outside the council to carry out a specific set task - for example, the City Centre Masterplan which was proposed by BDP. I would not consider that agency staff fall into the same category.

ACC is unable to provide you with information on **breakdown of the yearly figures to show who the consultant was, what project they were hired for, their specific cost, and the length of the contract** as the cost of providing it has been calculated as being in excess of the statutory maximum (£600). To explain this, this information is not held on a system that could easily provide the information. It would involve an ACC Officer checking every invoice paid and then identifying the consultant, and the project. Often the invoice may not give this detail and so further investigation may be required. There are over 1370 transactions for consultants fees in 2016 alone. This has been calculated at approximately 5 minutes per invoice, which equates to 114 hours, at the cost of £1,710.00 in total for 2016.

In order to comply with its obligations under the terms of Section 16 of the FOISA, ACC hereby give notice that we are refusing your request under the terms of Section 12 - Excessive Cost of Compliance - of the FOISA.

ACC would be happy to discuss ways in which you may refine your request, so we can provide some information of interest to you within the maximum cost limits. Please do contact the

Information Compliance team, who will be happy to advise you, if this is something you would like to pursue.

We hope this helps with your request.

Yours sincerely,

Grant Webster
Information Compliance Officer

INFORMATION ABOUT THE HANDLING OF YOUR REQUEST

ACC handled your request for information in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Please refer to the attached PDF for more information about your rights under FOISA.

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