

From: Foi Enquiries
Sent: 07 March 2019 08:53
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI-19-0212 - Specialist Reports
Attachments: V2 - Further Information - Right to Review & Appeal.pdf

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your information request of 11 March 2019. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has completed the necessary search for the information requested. Our response is now detailed below.

How many consultants have been commissioned in the current financial year?

(a) How many of the consultants above have been commissioned specifically for the sole purpose of providing a report?

(b) How many of the consultants above have been asked to produce reports as part of their contract?

What area of expertise/subject/issue have the reports been commissioned for?

ACC is unable to provide you with information on **How many consultants have been commissioned in the current financial year, How many of the consultants above have been commissioned specifically for the sole purpose of providing a report, How many of the consultants above have been asked to produce reports as part of their contract and What area of expertise/subject/issue have the reports been commissioned for** as it has been calculated as being in excess of the statutory maximum (£600). To explain this, it would involve an ACC Officer going through 931 entries in the ledger to identify the consultant, checking with the service they were working with to see what their purpose was and if they created any reports during their time there. It is estimated that we would need five minutes to look at each entry and obtain the information. This would take approximately 78 hours costing £1,164.

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

How much has been spent on consultants/specialist reports commissioned in the current financial year?

18/19 to date - £6,684,499.82 on consultants. However, please see further context below.

Please note the above figures are based on invoices recorded through the "Consultants costs" code and will include transactions as varied as design of the AWPR to hiring of a specialist music tutor to provide a lesson in playing a musical instrument.

By consultants we have included any individual or company hired from outside the Council to carry out a specific set task.

How many consultants have been commissioned in each of the last five financial years?

(a) How many of the consultants above have been commissioned specifically for the sole purpose of providing a report?

(b) How many of the consultants above have been asked to produce reports as part of their contract?

What area of expertise/subject/issue have the reports been commissioned for?

ACC is unable to provide you with information on **How many consultants have been commissioned in each of the last five financial years, How many of the consultants above have been commissioned specifically for the sole purpose of providing a report, How many of the consultants above have been asked to produce reports as part of their contract and What area of expertise/subject/issue have the reports been commissioned for** as it has been calculated as being in excess of the

statutory maximum (£600). To explain this, it would involve an ACC Officer going through 6,810 entries in the ledger to identify the consultant, checking with the service they were working with to see what their purpose was and if they created any reports during their time there. It is estimated that we would need five minutes to look at each entry and obtain the information. This would take approximately 568 hours costing £8,513.

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

How much has been spent on consultants/specialist reports commissioned in each of the last five financial years?

17/18 - £11,740,164.63

16/17 - £9,942,590.47

15/16 - £8,922,750.76

14/15 - £6,181,026.25

13/14 - £6,755,793.37

Please note the above figures are based on invoices recorded through the "Consultants costs" code and will include transactions as varied as design of the AWPR to hiring of a specialist music tutor to provide a lesson in playing a musical instrument.

By consultants we have included any individual or company hired from outside the Council to carry out a specific set task.

Under our duty to advise and assist, we thought you might be interested to know that you may be able to find information on published reports on our website by using the search function. We have done a search which you can find below:

<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/search/content?keys=Council+reports>

Once you have identified any reports that you are interested in, you can reduce the scope of your request to information on that report/those reports.

We hope this helps with your request.

Yours sincerely,

Grant Webster
Access to Information 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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