

From: Foi Enquiries
Sent: 03 April 2019 15:43
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI-19-0395 - Taxi Costs
Attachments: V2 - Further Information - Right to Review & Appeal.pdf

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your information request of 18 March 2019. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has completed the necessary search for the information requested. Our response is now detailed below.

Please provide me with information relating to taxi costs for each of the last five financial years, up to and including 2018-19-to-date.

Please tell me:

• How much money did the council pay taxi companies/ taxi drivers for services each year?

The expenditure contained within the hire of taxis code is:

18/19 - £233,694.03
17/18 - £282,647.94
16/17 - £256,154.97
15/16 - £260,548.06
14/15 - £226,287.98

The information provided below relates to contracted transport for the delivery of school and social care transport. For financial recording purposes the Council does not distinguish between taxi and private hire operators or record whether a taxi, private hire vehicle or minibus was utilised (where operated by predominantly taxi/private hire operators), as such the information below provides the figure for all. Transport is contracted at a set cost per contract and is not based on metred taxi rates, etc.

2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19*
£2,295,622	£2,227,463	£2,258,533	£1,953,422	£1,569,209

*incomplete financial year

• How many times did the council enlist the services of a taxi company/ driver each year?

There are 3,489 transactions under hire of taxis for the five years and each transaction would need to be checked to an invoice to see how many journeys were on each invoice.

ACC is unable to provide you with information on **How many times did the council enlist the services of a taxi company/ driver each year** as the cost of providing it has been calculated as being in excess of the statutory maximum (£600). To explain this, it would involve an ACC Officer checking through each transaction/invoice to identify how many journeys were on each invoice. This has been calculated at 5 minutes per file, which equates to 291 hours, at the cost of £4,361.25 in total.

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.

We cannot provide the number of individual journeys, but have provided the volume of contracts (which relate to an individual vehicle) for the delivery of school and social care transport. For consistency this is matched to the financial information above in terms of vehicles utilised.

2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
225	202	230	260	201

And, if possible, please tell me why each taxi was used during 2018-19-to-

date.

This would result in excessive cost as each transaction would need to be checked to the invoice and the journey details acquired. There may also a need to contact the user to determine why taxi was used and the details recorded.

ACC is unable to provide you with information on **why each taxi was used during 2018-19-to-date** as the cost of providing it has been calculated as being in excess of the statutory maximum (£600). To explain this, it would involve an ACC Officer checking through each transaction/invoice to identify if the reason why was recorded. This has been calculated at 15 minutes per file, at the cost of £2,017.50 in total.

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.

The majority of the expenditure (around 88% each year) is for day care for learning disability or for delivery of the Council's statutory duty to provide Home to School Transport and the provision of Social Care Transport.

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.

We hope this helps with your request.

Yours sincerely,

Grant Webster
Access to Information Officer

Grant Webster | Access to Information Officer

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