

Mr Julian Hall

29 November 2013
Our ref: IR28619

Dear Mr Hall,

Thank you for your request for information received on 12 September 2013 concerning shortlife housing. This request is being handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please accept my apologies for the delay in providing this response to you.

From our preliminary assessment, we estimate that compliance with your entire request would exceed the appropriate costs limit under section 12 of the Freedom of information Act 2000. This is currently £450.

Section 12 (1) FOIA, does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit

In accordance with s16 FOIA – providing advice and assistance we are able to provide the information included in this response, below:

1. What is the total amount collected by Lambeth Council for the sale of 'shortlife' housing between 2011 and the present?

How much money has been subtracted for:

- Payments to central government?
- Fees for lawyers?
- Fees to vacant property managers?
- Fees for evictions (bailiffs, police etc)?
- Fees to contractors?
- Fees to auctioneers?
- Admin fees?
- Overtime or other bonuses paid to 'shortlife' housing staff at Lambeth?
- Any other expenses?

You have previously asked for details in respect of shortlife properties and we have provided you with the total of the capital receipts realised by the sales of shortlife properties in response to request reference IR27313.

The information which we can provide is that we charge fees to purchasers of the properties at auction, from which we then pay our auctioneers (0.5%) and conveyancers (0.5%) so you will immediately see that we have paid approximately £400,000 in fees to these parties but these were in *addition* to the capital receipt and were not subtracted from it.

In respect of the remaining parts of your request, i.e. fees payable to lawyers, bailiffs, police, contractors, admin and other expenses, this information is not held per property, as the fees are in some cases paid from centralised resources. We would need to check our

invoicing systems to see what fees were paid out for each property where such records exist, or collate all the fees paid and allocate them to the shortlife properties (along with all our other disposals). Our staff do not receive bonuses.

Under FoI procedures, the Council is not obliged to provide information in response to a request where identifying, locating retrieving or extracting the requested information would require in excess of 18 hours work.

The Council has sold in excess of 100 shortlife properties so this would allow us approximately 10 minutes per property to identify and extract the requested information. The Council is therefore under no obligation to comply with your request for information as the Council estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

2. Furthermore what budgets or projects have the monies raised been allocated for and what amounts in each case?

The Council's website contains detailed financial information as well as a number of cabinet reports which detail Lambeth's spending priorities. The net receipts from shortlife properties are invested back directly into the single capital pot and the allocation of funds from this capital pot are clearly set out in the various budget reports which are readily available online at Lambeth.gov.uk.

I would take this opportunity to inform you that Lambeth Council shall consider the extent to which FOI requests received on the same, or similar, subject can be refused as vexatious or repeated, under section 14 of the FOIA.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which your Freedom of Information request has been dealt with you can request an internal review. Tell us why you are unhappy with our response within 40 working days, and it will be looked at afresh. We will aim to provide you with our review response within 20 working days.

By email: foi@lambeth.gov.uk (Please quote the reference number above) or by writing:

Freedom of Information
Olive Morris House Brixton Hill
London
SW2 1RD

If you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the review you have a further right to appeal to the Information Commissioner, who regulates the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act. The Commissioner can be contacted at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Enquiry line: 0303 123 1113

Thank you for your interest in Lambeth Council.

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