

## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 000071  
Date            13 April 2016

### ***Celebrity/Personal Appearances***

#### **Request:**

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please could you provide details of celebrity/personal appearances at council-run talks, events, conferences, dinners, opening of a new swimming pool, Christmas light switch-ons etc, you could also include things like author visits, council-organised concerts or theatre events, healthy living campaign launches etc over the past two financial years (2014/15 and 2015/16 to date, inclusive). This covers both internal private events (for example motivational talks for staff) and public events (e.g. opening of a new swimming pool, Christmas light switch-ons etc).

For each event, please provide information about:

- The date and name/type of event that the special guest was invited to
- The name of the invited guest. Celebrity, in this context, is any speaker who was specifically invited to attend from motivational speakers and authors through to soap stars, pop singers, war veterans and other notable people.
- The amount that was paid (including any expenses), and whether it was requested to be paid to charity

Following careful consideration, the Council regrets to inform you that it has decided not to disclose this information.

Information you have requested has been withheld from disclosure. The exemption engaged is Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

Section 12 of the FOI exempts Public Authorities from providing information where the estimated cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. Any estimate must be undertaken in accordance with the limits set in fees regulations made under Section 12 (5) of the FOI.

These Fees Regulations (SI 2004/3244 Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations) allow for a refusal where the cost of compliance, for local authorities such as the Council, would exceed £450. As a guide, staff time to identify and extract this information is charged at a rate of £25 per hour.

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

In summary to provide the information you have requested it would take us longer than 18 hours to compile as we do not record this type of information centrally and therefore we would have to carry out a manual trawl of around 400 - 500 shows to gather the information you have requested which would take us approximately 45 minutes for each case.

In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

*“(a) determining whether it holds the information,*

*(b) locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,*

*(c) retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information,  
and*

*(d) extracting the information from a document containing it”.*