

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 001217
Date 12 June 2017

General Election Cost

Request:

How much does it cost the local council (us) to hold a general election, that is printing ballot paper, administration, polling officers, returning officers, counters, transport, venues etc. Etc

Do we get any funding from central government to help defer costs.

Also the recent mayoral election, police commissioner election and the last local election

The City of Wolverhampton Council Returning Officer delivers local elections on behalf of the local authority, and regional or national elections on behalf of the relevant body (e.g. Police and Crime Commissioner elections are delivered on behalf of the Home Office; parliamentary elections are delivered on behalf of the Cabinet Office, etc.).

The Council is reimbursed for the costs of all regional or national elections/referenda but is responsible for the costs of local elections through its own core funding. Where more than one election takes place on the same day, the costs are apportioned equally to each poll.

With reference to the final costs for both the Mayoral election in May 2017 and general election in June 2017, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold the above information as the costs have yet to be confirmed (payments are still being made, invoices have yet to be received, etc.). Claims for these are due to be submitted to the government towards the end of the year. Consequently, we are unable to provide any information relating to the above, and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) (a) of the Act, that states: "Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request".

However, we can provide you with the combined costs of the local election and PCC election in May 2016 (see below) which would be a reasonable indication of total cost, although some efficiencies would be expected as it is only a single poll rather than combined:

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

PCC election (May 2016): £191,932.35 (NB: this is based on the claim submitted to the Home Office and has yet to be agreed).

Local elections (May 2016): £163,000 (NB: this is based on the year end accounts for the Council and represents costs recorded against the local elections).

In 2016, the government started publishing comparative costs of running elections. The first dataset relates to the 2014 European elections and others will follow once complete information is available. You can view the report for 2014 at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/costs-of-the-2014-european-parliamentary-elections>.