

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 001875
Date 17 January 2018

Library Fines

Request:

Please could you provide the answer to the following questions:

- 1) How many library fines have libraries in your local authority issued in the following years?
 - 2013
 - 2014
 - 2015
 - 2016
 - 2017

- 2) What is the total value of these fines, in each of the following years? (£)
 - 2013
 - 2014
 - 2015
 - 2016
 - 2017

In respect of questions 1 and 2 above, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold the above information. 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".

- 3) How much money was paid in library fines in each of the following years? (£)
 - 2013
 - 2014
 - 2015
 - 2016
 - 2017

In respect of question 3 for the years 2013-2015 above, we can confirm the Council holds this information falling within the description specified in your

request. However, Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows a public authority to refuse a request if the cost of providing the information to the applicant would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information Act.

The Regulations provide that the appropriate limit to be applied to requests received by local authorities is £450 (equivalent to 18 hours of work). 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
- (d) Extracting the information from a document containing it.

For the purposes of the estimate the costs of performing these activities should be estimated at a rate of £25 per hour.

The information appertaining to the years 2013-2015 is not easily accessible and as such this information is not held as a distinct set able to be retrieved or reported on. To provide you with the information requested would require a manual trawl of each till receipt for each day of the 3 years requested at all sixteen sites and as such we believe that the aggregated time it would take to collate the information would be in excess of 18 hours (equivalent to a notional cost of £450).

We can provide you with information for the years 2016-2018 as detailed below:

2016-2017 = £16,331.25

2017-2018 = £12,179.41 (as at 31 December 2017)