

## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 002508  
Date            09 July 2018

### ***Funeral of the Mayor of the City of Wolverhampton – March 2018***

#### **Request:**

What was the cost of the late Mayors funeral to the council tax payer of the city of Wolverhampton?

In response to your request, please find our response below:

Following a long illness, Cllr Elias Mattu died in February 2018. The funeral of a sitting Mayor is unusual (this was only the fourth in 50 years) and previous such events had been significant civic occasions, as well as a time of private mourning for family and friends. The importance of this was enhanced by Cllr Mattu's long standing as a Councillor of 20 years, and the regard for him in his ward, the wider community and further afield.

It was agreed with the family that the Council would, broadly speaking, cover those costs that would arise from it becoming a civic event rather than a regular family funeral. In summary, this included:

- Transport costs related to dignitaries.
- Audio-visual equipment (to cater for increased attendance).
- Hosting dignitaries.
- Security and crowd management arrangements.
- Providing a large enough venue to host the reception (due to lack of availability at other venues at short notice).

The table below summarises the costs the Council incurred:

Travel, transport and related costs	919.49
Security and crowd management/safety (at church and cemetery)	14,294.67
Contribution to Police costs	2,040.40
Equipment hire	8,988.54
Catering (dignitaries' reception post-funeral)	1,521.08
Catering (tea/coffee/soft drinks at Aldersley post-interment)	2,435.50
Catering (pallbearers, RAF personnel, etc.)	118.60

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Audio visual (five locations)	19,334.05
Other costs	510.13
TOTAL COSTS:	£50,162.46

The funeral service attracted about 2,000 attendees, with the church full and overflow guests watching on the outside screen. Several hundred then went on to the interment at the cemetery.

Note: the information above details the costs incurred and paid for by the City of Wolverhampton Council and excludes other costs (e.g. those paid for by the Mayor's family, which included the costs of the funeral itself and the catering for 500 guests at the Aldersley reception).