

Derry City & Strabane

District Council

Comhairle **Chathair Dhoire &** Cheantar an tSratha Báin

Derry Cittie & Stràbane Destrick Cooncil

Ref: FOI / 678

03 August 2016

Mr Assistant Researcher ClearView Research Ltd

Email: @clearviewresearch.co.uk

Dear Mr

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request Budget for Electoral or Democratic **Services Department**

I refer to your FOI request as above and respond as follows:

Please note that Derry City and Strabane District Council was formed under the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 effective 1 April 2015 and replaces the former councils of Derry City Council and Strabane District Council. Requests made to the legacy councils since 1 April 2015 are being handled by Derry City and Strabane District Council and duplicate requests made to the legacy councils are being treated as one request.

Under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 "duty to advise and assist" as outlined above, Council notes that you are seeking access to records for 2 legal entities which no longer exist. As outlined above, Derry City and Strabane District Council came into legal existence on 01 April 2015. I can further confirm that records from the legally extant Councils while held, are held in different locations, servers, systems and software packages. We have provided you with information which you may find of relevance to your request.

Please find attached costs for electoral and democratic services for the relevant years as required. All costs have been funded by the relevant Councils except the grants from DOE which have been highlighted.

For the period 2nd July 2013 to 19th June 2014, a separate transition committee existed and the new Council commenced in shadow form (alongside the existing Councils) from 26th May 2014 up until 31st March 2015. Additional costs were therefore incurred during this period for these 2 entities for which separate accounts were prepared and are attached which provide all the requested information. As stipulated by Central Government, election costs have been included as part of these accounts.

If you are dissatisfied with our response you have rights of review and appeal; these rights consist of two review processes. Firstly our internal review procedure is available by contacting:

John Kelpie Chief Executive Derry City and Strabane District Council 98 Strand Road Derry **BT48 7NN** Tel 028 71253253 or email john.kelpie@derrystrabane.com

Secondly, you can appeal directly by contacting the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow

CHESHIRE SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or email: casework@ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Lead Finance Officer

