



Ref: FOI / 1873

02 July 2018

Tax Payers Alliance

Email: intern1@taxpayersalliance.com

Dear Sir

### Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request Cost of Award Ceremonies

I refer to your FOI request received 04 June and clarification same date I can advise the requested information is held by Derry City and Strabane District Council.

#### Request:

I am writing to obtain information about your organisation's spending on award ceremonies in 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18.

- What was the total cost of award ceremonies in each of 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18?
- What was the total number of award ceremonies in each of 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18?
- What was the name of the award ceremony in each of 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18?

Clarification: My request is for both the cost of council staging awards events and the cost of council officers attending award events organised by others.

#### Response:

##### Council Hosted Award Ceremonies

Award Name	15/16	16/17	17/18
Derry City and Strabane District Sports Awards	£8,200	£8,400	£9,000
Woman of The Year	£1,105.92	£728.96	N/A
North West Business Awards	£610		
Londonderry Chamber of Commerce Presidents Dinner	£50	£1,300	N/A

#### Derry

C/o Council Offices  
98 Strand Road  
Derry  
BT48 7NN

#### Strabane

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47 Derry Road  
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Strabane Chamber Business Awards	£1,135	£1,000	N/A
Junior Chamber of Commerce	N/A	£500	N/A

### **Awards attended by Council Officers**

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act), this letter should be considered as a Refusal Notice for this part of your request. Section 17(5) of the Act requires the Council when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to "give the applicant a notice stating that fact".

It is estimated that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the "appropriate costs limit" under Section 12(1) of the Act. Section 12 of the Act permits a public authority to refuse to deal with a request where it estimates that it would exceed the appropriate limit to either comply with the request in its entirety or confirm or deny whether the requested information is held. The estimate must be reasonable in the circumstances of the case. The 'appropriate limit' is currently £450 for Council. The relevant Regulations which define the appropriate limit for section 12 purposes are The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulation 2004 SI 2004 No 3244. For brevity, these are known as the 'Fees Regulations' and Regulation 4(3) states that a public authority can take into account the costs it reasonably expects to incur in carrying out the following permitted activities in complying with the request:

- (i) determining whether the information is held;
- (ii) locating the information, or a document containing it;
- (iii) retrieving the information, or a document containing it; and
- (iv) extracting the information from a document containing it.

Under those regulations Council can calculate the time spent on each of these permitted activities at £25 per hour (thus if the activity(s) takes more than 18 hours Council will be in excess of the 'appropriate limit'). Limit and Fees) Regulation 2004 SI 2004 No 3244 refers.

The clarification for this refusal notice is that there is no one particular cost code for officers attending award ceremonies. These costs tend to be attributed to the service area and type of event and specific separate costs. Over the timespan requested there have been numerous events attended by a variety of council staff and to manually interrogate the information for each and every Council official that attended events and extract the requested information for each individual would exceed the appropriate limit.

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Please note Council considers this exception to be concerned with the nature of the request and the impact of dealing with it and not any adverse effect that might arise from disclosure of the content of the information requested.

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](mailto: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](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

Yours sincerely

**FOI Team**  
**Derry City and Strabane District Council**

**Derry**

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