



Data Protection Officer  
Freedom of Information  
NW Leicestershire District Council  
Whitwick Road  
Coalville  
Leicestershire  
LE67 3FJ  
Telephone: 01530 454763

Date: 02 February 2021

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 1396**

I write further to your email dated 27 November 2020.

Your request has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), explained on our [freedom of information](#) page.

Your request:

I would like to know if it is possible for me to carry out an intensive audit on the expense accounts of several of your senior directors including

- Chief Executive - Bev Smith current and previous
- Strategic director - James Arnold current and previous
- Strategic director - Andy Barton current and previous
- Head of Finance - Tracey Bingham current and previous
- Also any finances paid towards the local MP Andrew Bridgen if these are visible to the public.

Would it be possible for you to supply the expenses accounts and receipt copies for the above personnel from 2015 onwards or are these available to view online. I am conducting an investigative survey on political and district corruption in the country made by local councilors and Members of parliament and am currently investigating if the corruption filters deeper into the structure of local councils. I am in no way suggesting that this is the case however I have been made aware that there maybe a of a possibility of this running deeper though out the local infrastructure of many of the UKs local councils. I have been made aware of possible links of corruption with local councilors and Members of parliament and have decided to bring these findings out into public view.

Our response:

I can confirm that North West Leicestershire District Council holds the information you have requested. However, some of the information is already available on our website and is, therefore, exempt from disclosure under section 21 of the FOIA.

Senior staff pay is published as part of final accounts and none of our staff have expense accounts. Staff may make claims for reimbursement/mileage etc but all senior officer remuneration is already disclosed in our annual accounts and these are audited by external auditors. Specifically, our auditors have a lower materiality threshold for reviewing senior officer pay which is £5k, meaning if there are any discrepancies they will be reported publicly above this level. The data you request can be found here:

[https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/annual\\_accounts\\_and\\_governance\\_reports](https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/annual_accounts_and_governance_reports)

Senior officer emoluments are included in a note to the accounts as "Other", page 81 in latest statements. "Other" costs include taxable benefit, this includes lease car or essential user allowance

and mileage claims. Also included are memberships of professional bodies and the reimbursement of relocation expenses for one member of staff.

Please see attached file 1396a.zip for the available expense receipts requested.

Name	Role	Sum	Details
Andy Barton	Strategic Director	£44.12	Mileage
Bev Smith	Chief Executive	£100.60	
Tracey Bingham	Head of Finance	£80.01	Mileage (no receipts available)
James Arnold	Strategic Director		No claims
Andrew Hunkin	Former Director of Resources	£10.34	Car parking (no receipts available)
		£2.06	Car parking vat (no receipts available)
		£235.58	Mileage (no receipts available)
Steve Bambrick	Former Director of Services	£82.50	Mileage(no receipts available)
		£9.67	Car parking
		£1.93	Car parking vat
Glyn Jones	Former Chief Executive	£209.66	Mileage
		£508.00	Professional fees
		£83.85	Reimbursement
		£2.67	Car parking (no receipts available)
		£0.53	Car parking vat (no receipts available)

There has been nothing sent through creditors in Andrew Bridgens name.

The supply of information in response to a freedom of information request does not confer the right to re-use the information. UK copyright law allows information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research to be used without permission. Information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting except for in the case of photographs.

## GOING FORWARD

If you are dissatisfied with the information supplied please feel free to contact me on the number above for any queries in relation to this response. Please note that in responding to further enquiries I can only comment on the information contained within this correspondence and cannot provide any further information that may pertain to an additional FOIA request.

Please remember to quote the Authority's four digit reference number given at the top of this email in any future communications.

If you remain dissatisfied following the conclusion of the above informal review, you have the right to ask for an internal review. A request for a review whether formal or informal should be submitted within two calendar months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be sent to [DPO@NWLeicestershire.gov.uk](mailto:DPO@NWLeicestershire.gov.uk) or the address above.

Further details on our appeals and complaints procedure can be found on our website [here](#).

If you remain dissatisfied following the conclusion of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at [accessicoinformation@ico.org.uk](mailto:accessicoinformation@ico.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Mackenzie Keatley  
Information Governance Officer