

2015

2 Concerning legal costs for an FoI

12 May 2015

Request

It is surprising that the Council has received an FoI request for documents which councillors consider to be so sensitive that they authorised expenditure (in confidential session?) of £1,100 on legal advice in deciding how to respond.

I do think the public which has paid this large fee is entitled to know what the request was which resulted in this expenditure. The ICO publication "The Guide to Freedom of Information" makes plain that FoI requests and answers are themselves susceptible to FoI requests. I copy a relevant extract here.

Many councils proactively publish the requests they receive and the answers they give.

In the circumstances please could you let me have a copy of the request and of the answer – even if the latter is just a reasoned refusal? I am happy that the requester's identifying features should be redacted if this is considered appropriate

Response

I had it on my 'to do list' to add Freedom of Information requests and responses to the website – which I have now done this morning. Please see the link http://steypingpc.gov.uk/?page_id=4079 for details of FOI's that have been submitted to the Parish Council, and responses provided, during the time that I have been Clerk.