

Somerset Direct Reference: 1927952
Resources Internal Reference: 1313
Date of request: 20/02/2012
Date request due: 19/03/2012
Date of response: 24/02/2012

Dear xxxx

I am writing in respect of your recent request for information from Somerset County Council, which has been dealt with under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I can confirm that we hold some of the information that you are seeking.

Our response is detailed in bold format underneath your questions on the recent purchase and erection of artwork, including large landscape canvasses, at County Hall, Taunton.

- Q1. Disclosure of the business case for the purchase and erection of the artwork
- Q2. Disclosure of the total costs, including purchase, erection and ANY other associated costs
- Q3. Disclosure of the decision making process, including the names and wards of any elected members involved
- Q4. Disclosure of the relevant sections of all meeting notes relating to the purchase of the artwork and the names and roles of the attendees at each of the meetings

Our Response

The installation of pictures was part of routine minor maintenance of the public access corridor leading from B Block Reception to the A Block committee rooms. The work was not subject to special decision-making processes or minuted meetings given that the costs involved would fall within the range of ordinary maintenance routines.

The suggestion that pictures supplied from Somerset Heritage Service sources might form part of the maintenance works came originally from Councillor Elaine Waymouth, Vice Chairman of the Council, and member for the Staplegrove Division. Two brief, informal site meetings were held to discuss the possibilities, a principle of which was that the costs should as nearly as possible be minimal. The attendees at these two meetings were variously Councillor Elaine Waymouth, Tom Mayberry, Group Manager for Heritage and Libraries, and members of the County Hall Facilities Management team.

The photographs were originally created for the Museum of Somerset and the Somerset Rural Life Museum and were thus already available to the County Council without any financial cost in terms of image capture or licensing. The photography was undertaken over many months by a staff member in his own time. He donated the results to the County Council out of goodwill. The material costs of producing the images at County Hall are set out below:

Timber: £167

Canvas: £465

Ink: £382

The cost of staff time has not been separately calculated, but was not excessive.

If you feel your request has not been answered in sufficient detail or if you wish to clarify the information given, please contact me and I will be happy to address the issues you raise.

If you are not satisfied with the way in which your request has been dealt with, or the information you have received, you can ask for an internal review of our decision.

Please send your request to:

Peter Grogan, Information Governance Team, Client Services
Resources Directorate, A2 West, County Hall, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4DY or email
informationgovernance@Somerset.gov.uk

Please quote the reference number 1927952 in any future communications.

An internal review will then be carried out and we will write to you with the results of our investigation. If you are not content with the outcome of our review, you may then apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (www.ico.gov.uk) for an appeal. The Information commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113

Finally, please be aware that your response will appear, without your contact details, on the Council's website at:

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/disclosurelog>

Yours sincerely,
FOI / EIR Representative