



Ref: FOI / 2299

26 February 2019

Ms

Email: request-548566-6a7968df@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Ms

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request Legal Bills since 1 April 2018**

I refer to your FOI request below and include Councils response as follows:

#### **Request:**

1. What was the council's budget for seeking external legal advice / opinions / representation per year since the implementation of Local Government Reform on 1 April 2015?
2. What was the actual amount spent on legal advice / opinions / representation in each of those years?
3. How much of that expenditure per year was related to planning and environmental issues?

#### **Response:**

1. There is no separate budget for this area.
2. 15/16 - £64313.87 (£3,000.00)  
16/17 - £34,239.51 (£23,027.71)  
17/18 - £22091.31 (£0)  
18/19 - £225.00 (to date) (accrual of £38,500.00)
3. There is no separate record for environmental matters. Planning figures are in brackets above.

#### **Derry**

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

#### **Strabane**

C/o Council Offices  
47 Derry Road  
Strabane  
BT82 8DY

+44 (0) 2871 253 253  
info@derrystrabane.com  
[www.derrystrabane.com](http://www.derrystrabane.com)

Derry City & Strabane District Council  
 @dcsdcouncil

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)

I would advise however, the Information Commissioner has indicated that a review will not be undertaken unless the Council has first had an opportunity to re-consider its decision.

Yours sincerely