



FOI Ref: OPCC 145.2015

Request:

Please can you give me the purchase price of EX Probation HQ OFFICES in Llangunnor and the running cost for one year of the offices, heat, light, property tax etc

Response:

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at Section 1(1)(a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at Section 1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held.

I can confirm that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) does hold the information you have requested. However the (OPCC) is withholding the whole of the requested information as it is considered that the Section 12 (1) exemption the Cost of Compliance exceeds the Appropriate Limit applies to it.

Where exemptions are relied upon Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies. The following exemption has been applied to the whole of the information you have requested:

Section 12(1) – The cost of compliance exceeds the Appropriate Limit

Section 12(1) states: “...Section 1 (1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.”

The cost of providing you with the information requested in respect of the **whole of the request** is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the “appropriate level” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. It is estimated that it would exceed 18 hours (i.e. minimum of **47.87** hours) to comply with this part of your request. The regulations can be located @

www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/si/si2004/20043244.htm

The Freedom of Information Unit has been advised by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) that due to the fact that there is no specific code or category to easily identify the costs of running the ex-Probation Office Building, in order to provide a definitive and accurate response would require researching each and every transaction held during a single year to retrieve and collate information relevant to the request. It has been

established that for the financial year 2014/2015 there are a total of 5,745 transactions held that would require researching and it has been estimated it would take a minimum of 0.5 minute to research a single record. Therefore to complete the task would incur the time estimate as outlined below:

5,745 transactions @ minimum of 0.5 minutes per record = 47.87 hours

Therefore total time estimate to complete whole request = 47.87 hours

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for the WHOLE of this request under Section 17(5) A public authority which, in relation to any request for information, is relying on a claim that section 12 or section 14 applies must, within the time for complying with section 1(1), give the applicant a notice stating that fact. You may wish to refine and resubmit your request so that it reduces the time shown above to fall within the 18 hours, however, having due regard to the time estimate provided above it is unlikely that refining your request will fall under the 18 hours as the same method and format will have to be undertaken. Should you require any further advice in relation to this matter please don't hesitate to contact me?

Please also be advised that should the request be refined, it does not remove the Force's right to cite exemptions if relevant.

Although excess cost removes the forces obligations under the Freedom of Information Act to provide any further information, as a gesture of goodwill, I have provided information, relative to your request which has been easily retrievable and outlined below. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

The purchase costs of the ex-probation office building Llangunnor, Carmathen was £204,042

(This is a response under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and disclosed on 21.05.15)