

FOI number: HBC_FOI_20200042
Date FOI Received: 17/01/2020
Department: Legal
Title: EFS Board Member expenses
Description: Expense claims made, declared and undeclared by Cllrs Clapper, Bright, Morris, Goldstein in relation to Elstree Film Studios

Request: (As Redacted sent by requestor)

Dear Hertsmere Borough Council,

Please provide copies of all expenses claimed by Cllr Morris Bright, Cllr Pervez Choudry, Cllr Caroline Clapper and former councillor Cllr Charles Goldstein, as Board Members of Elstree Film Studios including a list of all events attended as Board members, whether their spouses and or partners attended and all costs incurred in terms of travel, transport including the mode of transport eg public rail or bus, taxi, flights, hotel costs, hospitality received, benefits in kind and a copy of all declarations made and identify failures and or gaps in any declarations by these Councillors in relation to expense claims made in relation to attendance at such events including any costs for spouses and or partners.

Yours faithfully,

Response: (Response as Redacted sent by service)

The Council hold recorded information relevant to your request but declines to communicate that information to you. I am therefore required to inform you of the exemption(s) upon which the Council relies to withhold such information

Relevant Exemptions:

Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Information reasonably accessible to the requestor by other means

Some of the information held by the Council relevant to your request has already been published and is viewable on the disclosure log on the Councils web site – please click on the link below:-

<https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Your-Council/Official-Publications--Guides--Policies/Freedom-Of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

In addition, the Council is required by law to publish the total allowances and expenses received by Councillors in each financial year and from 1 April 2018 that has included allowances and expenses received by Councillors as directors of Council owned Companies. Please visit the Council's web site for information about financial year 2018/19.

In addition the published accounts of Elstree Film Studios Limited can be viewed on the Companies House web site, visit:- <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/companies-house>

Section 21 of the 2000 Act provides that the Council can decline to supply information which is reasonable accessible to a requestor by other means - such as where the relevant information can be viewed on the Council's web site or at Companies House.

Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information intended for future publication

Information in relation to the allowances and expenses received by councillors who are directors of Elstree Film Studios Limited for the financial year 2019/20 will be published by the Council within the next two months. Section 22 of the 2000 Act allows the Council to withhold information intended for future publication if it is in the public interest to do so.

In this regard, the Council considers that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in withholding this information to its intended publication date outweighs any competing public interest in its immediate publication.

If you have any queries about the processing of your request then please do not hesitate to contact me. Further information explaining the Council's process for responding to information requests together with a complaints/appeals procedure is available in our reception or via our website at:

<https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Your-Council/Official-Publications--Guides--Policies/Access-to-Information.aspx>

Information Commissioner

The Information Commissioner oversees the application of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You may contact the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House, Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF Telephone: 01625 545700
Website: www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please include the above reference number on all correspondence related to this request.

Thank you for your request.

Kind regards

Information Services