

Tom Minogue,
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If telephoning or calling ask for

Direct Line: 01593-416591

Email: Elaine.Moffat@fife.gov.uk

Date: 12th April 2007

Your Ref :

Our Ref: LALS/0000117.

Dear Mr Minogue,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002 – REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

I refer to your email dated and received on 26th October 2006; our reference is LALS/0000117.

I am pleased to enclose the information you requested and hope that it meets your requirements. For ease of reference I have copied the numbering system you used in your letter. The questions being dealt with under freedom of information legislation were in the third section of your letter and these are listed below in quotation marks, accompanied by the answer to each one.

"In addition to the above questions which are asked by me by way of clarification of the agreement I would also ask for clarification of the following general points regarding Fife Council's role as stewards of The Glen:

3/

(i) The Trust through various spokespersons have claimed that the cost of upkeep for the Glen is currently (2004/2005) running at £500,000.00, (half a million pounds). Can you confirm this figure as being accurate or provide me with the accurate cost?"

ANSWER 3(i) The running costs for the Glen are currently budgeted at £699k. This figure is for the next financial year which is 2006/07 and it includes the costs associated with the Glen Pavilion (£60k), the Museum (£143k) as well as the Park (£496k).

"..(ii) I understand from the Scottish Executive website that Grant Aided Expenditure (GAEs) for parks (excluding libraries museums and galleries) for Fife in the year 2004/2005 was forecast as being £18,372,000.00. Can you tell me if this forecast was accurate?"

ANSWER 3(ii) The GAE figure referred to of £18,372k relates to the assessment figure for Leisure & Recreation. This figure includes Parks but it also includes Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools, Golf, Tourism and Halls. This figure is broken down further on the Scottish Executive web site to give a figure for Parks of £8,254k. GAE is not actual funding that the Council receives but represents a provision to spend. The Council can then decide how much they intend to allocate to each area.

"...(iii) I can see from your Audited Accounts for this period that the sum of £56,968,000.00 was expended on Cultural Related Leisure Services but it is not clear what within that amount was spent on parks. In the year 2004/2005 what was the actual amount spent by Fife Council on parks and what was the budget for this provision?"

ANSWER 3(iii) During 2004/05 the budget for Parks was £11,226k against a net outturn of £12,005k.

"..(iv) Given that the Trust have made it known that Fife Council are cutting back on their expenditure in The Glen and a further deterioration is unavoidable can you confirm or otherwise clarify Fife Council's position with regard to the provision of services and expenditure in The Glen?"

ANSWER 3(iv) Over the last few years the budget for Parks and Amenities throughout Fife has suffered a reduction in line with Fife Council budgetary provision. There are no plans to specifically target the Glen for budget savings although this can never be ruled out.

There have been changes in the operational arrangements which have resulted in the closure of the Model Traffic area and the Animal centre, once popular visitor features in the park. There has been a reduction in expenditure on replacement plants but in contrast improvements have been carried out to the Lily Pond Gardens and we continue to work with the Friends of Pittencrieff Park. The public are no longer being charged for parking in the Park and there is continued provision of free toilet facilities seven days a week in summer and weekends in the Winter. There is a continued commitment to providing a quality service in the park and the Council is continuing in its work with the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust on projects such as the redevelopment of the carpark at the northwest corner and in its support of the Heritage lottery bid in the future.

"..(v) The audited account and annual report of the Trust show that a charitable donation of £30,000.00 was made to Fife Council in respect of Pittencrieff Park was this money donated as a voluntary gift to help Fife Council with the cost of The Glen's upkeep or was it part of an agreement or other liability to the Council?"

ANSWER 3(v) The £30k donation that was made by the Trust to the Council was part of a bigger project in which the car park at Pittencrieff Park was improved and the entrance was changed to allow better access to the park.

If you are not satisfied with the way we have handled your request, you have the right to request a review of the decision. Please write to: Head of Law & Administration, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes, KY7 5LT; within 3 calendar months of receipt of our decision. If this fails to resolve the matter to your complete satisfaction, you have the right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner for a decision.

Yours sincerely



Elaine Moffat
Information Co-ordinator
Law & Administration Service