

E-mail:

03 May 2016

Your reference:

Our reference: FOI 2016-0297

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - DISCLOSURE

The council has completed its search relating to your request for information about voluntary redundancy scheme, which was received on 14 March 2016.

The council does hold information within the definition of your request.

Question 1

What were Cumbria County Council's savings requirements / targets in advance of the new financial year (2016/17)?

Answer 1

The savings are agreed as part of the Council's budget which was approved at Council in February 2016. This is the link to the budget papers

<http://councilportal.cumbria.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=123&MId=8033&Ver=4>

Question 2

How much of this has been successfully identified and will be delivered with immediate effect from the start of the new financial year?

Answer 2

Progress on the delivery of savings will be reported to Cabinet in September as part of the Quarter 1 monitoring report.

Question 3

What proportion of the total savings have been delivered through the voluntary redundancy scheme?

Answer 3

Our interpretation of Q3 is that if you are asking how much of the savings delivered via voluntary redundancy are included within the 2016/17 savings mentioned in Q1 and Q2. In response to this question we will not know the proportion of total savings delivered through the voluntary redundancy scheme until September 2016, after it has been reported to Cabinet.

Question 4

When did the scheme open and close?

Answer 4

The last corporate window was May 2015 (11th May – 8th June 2015)

Question 5

How many staff have been offered and accepted voluntary redundancy but are still awaiting a date to actually leave?

Answer 5

In relation to the corporate window there are 12 in total who were offered voluntary redundancy on a deferred basis, which is subject to their service area undergoing a review. These employees were notified that the timescale for reviewing and reshaping their services would be undertaken over a 2 year period.

Question 6

What is the longest length of time members of staff (including those still awaiting a leaving date) have been left without a clear leaving date after being accepted for VR?

Answer 6

The earliest offer letters were issued 29 June 2015 so the 12 employees mentioned above will have been waiting a date the longest (9 months). Please note that as per Q5 response they were notified of this when offered VR.

Question 7

How much in total has been spent on salary costs for staff accepted for Voluntary Redundancy to date?

Answer 7

Please clarify whether you require the total salary costs for an employee who has applied for VR and their date of leaving, or the total salary cost from acceptance of VR to their date of leaving.

Question 8

How many staff who have been accepted for voluntary redundancy and are awaiting a date have since had sick leave, or are still on sick leave? And what has been spent on sick pay for staff who have already been accepted for VR?

Answer 8

5 employees awaiting a VR leaving date have had sick leave. One employee has been absent since 17/12/15. The others are all currently in work but have had a total of 16 days sickness with a total cost for sick pay of £20,610.15

Most of the information that we provide in response to requests submitted under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 will be subject to copyright protection. In most cases the copyright will be owned by Cumbria County Council. However the copyright in other information may be owned by another person or organisation, as indicated on the information itself.

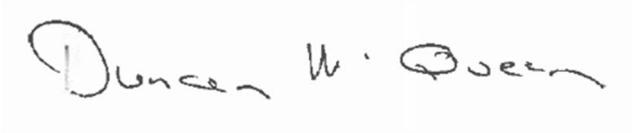
You are free to use any information supplied in this response for your own non-commercial research or private study purposes. The information may also be used for any other purpose allowed by a limitation or exception in copyright law, such as news reporting. However, any other type of re-use, for example by publishing the information in analogue or digital form, including on the internet, will require the permission of the copyright owner. Where the copyright owner is the council you will need to make an application under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005.

For information where the copyright is owned by another person or organisation you must apply to the owner to obtain their permission.

If you are dissatisfied with the way the council has responded to your request you can request an Internal Review. If you would like to request a Review please contact the Information Governance Team using the details at the top of this letter.

Further information can be found on the council's website: <http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/council-democracy/accesstoinformation/internalreviewscomplaints.asp>

Yours sincerely,



Duncan W. Queen

Senior Manager – Performance and Risk