

## CORPORATE 50/12

### REQUEST

#### **Allegations of internal fraud, theft and corruption**

I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act for details of all allegations made to the council of fraud, theft and corruption by councillors, council officials and council staff/employees/contractors (ie. anyone internal to the council)

More specifically, I am requesting the following:

1. a) The total number of allegations received in 2011/12
1. b) A summary of **each** allegation made to the council of fraud, theft and corruption by councillors, council officials and council staff/employees/contractors (ie. anyone internal to the council) including, but not limited to:
  - a detailed description of the alleged wrongdoing (please include if it relates to fraud, theft, corruption, or a combination),
  - the number of councillors, council officials, or council staff/employees/contractors involved,
  - their role or job titles,
  - the amount (value) involved,
  - whether an internal investigation was launched,
  - if the police were involved,
  - if any other external investigators were involved,
  - the outcome of any internal or external investigation (stating if any disciplinary action was taken)
  - if the investigation has resulted in a public hearing or court case where the names of those found guilty were made public, please provide the names of those involved
2. a) and b) The same for 2010/11
3. a) and b) The same for 2009/10

Please note that I am seeking details relating to internal council persons (such as councillors, officials and employees or contractors), whether they were alleged to have acted alone or with external individuals.

By way of explanation, I would expect the terms 'fraud, theft, and corruption' to include (but not be limited to) the descriptions below: (This is not an exhaustive list)

- The term 'fraud' contained within the Fraud Act 2006 includes fraud by false representation, fraud by failing to disclose information and fraud by abuse of position. It may include the intentional distorting of statements or other records to conceal the misappropriation of assets, evasion of liabilities or for gain. It may involve unauthorised use of council property.
- The term 'theft' may include the theft of monies or property by persons internal to the council (please note I am not interested in thefts carried out by persons external to the council)
- The term 'corruption' can be defined as the offering, giving, soliciting or acceptance of an inducement or reward that may influence the action of any person. The main law relating to corruption in public bodies is contained in the Public Bodies Corrupt Practices Act 1889 and the Prevention of Corruption Act 1906 as supplemented by the Prevention of Corruption Act 1916, Local Government Act 1972 and the Anti-Terrorism Crime and Security Act 2001. Corruption occurs if a person offers gifts or consideration as an inducement or acts in collusion with others. This could involve elected Members or officers of the council. Please also include those offences in relation to the Bribery Act 2010.

## **RESPONSE**

Further to your FOI request received on 5 October 2012, please find below the answers to your enquiry:-

1. a) The total number of allegations received in 2011/12 - Nil  
b) N/A
2. a) The total number of allegations received in 2010/11 – 1  
b) Allegation details:

Corruption – allegation that information on empty properties was being passed to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to enable 3<sup>rd</sup> party to approach owners with a view to buying the empty properties – information being provided by a Council Officer in return for small cash payments.

Number of Council staff involved – allegation indicated 1

Role / job title – unable to provide as allegation did not identify, and was not identified in initial investigation undertaken

Amount involved – sum involved impossible to quantify

internal Investigation was initiated, but ceased following initial research

Were police involved – No

Any other external investigators involved – No

Outcome – Exercise ceased after initial research when it became apparent that there was no evidence available of purchase of properties by 3<sup>rd</sup> party for many years.

3. a) The total number of allegations received in 2009/10 – Nil  
b) N/A