

Councillors Expenses - 2016 - 17

Posted by Newsline - 08 Dec 2016 19:51

WE are continuing our annual review of councillors expenses and are pleased to report that some have taken on board our criticism (2015) of using a car when they could have rested on a train at much less expense to the public. A few have now stopped claiming for short local journeys and others are now sharing taxi's.

However on looking at this years FOI disclosure we can see that, in our opinion, at least three are claiming for something that they are not entitled, including a member of the Audit Committee.

One is claiming for journeys of 1.6 miles, and one appears to be breaking the rules entirely in respect of travel.

Tomorrow.....

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Re: Councillors Expenses - 2016 - 17

Posted by Kell - 24 Dec 2016 18:10

Newsline wrote:

This Cllr appears to claim 8 miles return from his home to Calderwood Lodge, unfortunately the AA say it is only 3.2 miles return.

How embarrassing even thinking about claiming 1.6 miles, and can none of these councillors actually count.

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Re: Councillors Expenses - 2016 - 17

Posted by Newsline - 25 Dec 2016 10:44

Just finishing off the last of the forms prior to receiving any further material from ERC, after our review request.

Charlie Gilbert

He is still claiming 8 miles return from his home to Headquarters, however according to the AA the return mileage is only 5.8 miles.

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Re: Councillors Expenses - 2016 - 17

Posted by Newsline - 09 Jan 2017 17:10

We wrote to Councillors McAlpine, Hay, McCaskill and Gilbert informing them of our findings that they may have over claimed, in error.

Copied in James Fletcher group leader, Labour and Stewart Miller group leader, Conservative.

Also Caroline Innes, the councillors monitoring officer.

We have been informed that Cllr Gilbert has approached the council and has paid an undisclosed amount back to the council.

There has been no contact from Cllrs McAlpine, Hay or McCaskill at present.

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Re: Councillors Expenses - 2016 - 17

Posted by Geddes - 09 Jan 2017 18:46

Newsline wrote:

We wrote to Councillors McAlpine, Hay, McCaskill and Gilbert informing them of our findings that they may have over claimed, in error.

Copied in James Fletcher group leader, Labour and Stewart Miller group leader, Conservative.

Also Caroline Innes, the councillors monitoring officer.

We have been informed that Cllr Gilbert has approached the council and has paid an undisclosed amount back to the council.

Unfortunately there has been no sign of Cllrs McAlpine, Hay or McCaskill doing likewise.

Well done!

One has to ask the question why is it that it is always yourself or BN who uncover wrongdoing within ERC , investigate it rigorously and expose the facts.... Yet none of this wrongdoing ever seems to be discovered by ERC themselves.

Are they incompetent or is something more sinister at play? You would expect that if someone makes multiple claims for the same journey , someone within ERC might just have checked their accuracy? Or checked whether the journey was actually council business or if a certain councillor was visiting a 'lady friend' on expenses? Is it just assumed that a councillor must not be questioned?

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Re: Councillors Expenses - 2016 - 17

Posted by Kell - 09 Jan 2017 23:39

@geddes I think that it was you that said it some time ago. Staff don't question anything that Cllrs say and in return Cllrs don't question what staff say.

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Re: Councillors Expenses - 2016 - 17

Posted by Gloria - 10 Jan 2017 10:44

Geddes wrote:

Well done!

One has to ask the question why is it that it is always yourself or BN who uncover wrongdoing within ERC , investigate it rigorously and expose the facts.... Yet none of this wrongdoing ever seems to be discovered by ERC themselves.

Are they incompetent or is something more sinister at play? You would expect that if someone makes multiple claims for the same journey , someone within ERC might just have checked their accuracy? Or checked whether the journey was actually council business or if a certain councillor was visiting a 'lady friend' on expenses? Is it just assumed that a councillor must not be questioned?

That's why Mr Fletcher wants them shut down, and anyone who supports him is anti democracy as far as i am concerned.

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