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**Reference number: FOI/RAP/08/20/19516**

1 message

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**Information Governance** <information.governance@hertfordshire.gov.uk>  
To: "harry.fone@taxpayersalliance.com" <harry.fone@taxpayersalliance.com>

19 August 2020 at 10:58

Dear Mr Fone

**Reference number: FOI/RAP/08/20/19516**On 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020 we received the following request for information from you: -**Please would you provide me with the following information:****For the financial years 2019-20 and 2020-21 to date:**

1. How much money has the council spent in total on commissioned portraits (i.e. a painting, drawing or engraving of a person)?
2. How much money has the council spent in total on purchased portraits (i.e. a painting, drawing or engraving of a person)?
3. For portraits commissioned who was the subject (e.g. member of staff, council leader etc)?
4. If possible, I would be grateful for a breakdown of spending
  - Cost of each portrait
  - Name of artist
  - Room hire costs
  - Number of sittings
  - Any other fees / charges incurred

On 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020, I asked for clarification, on whether your request would include portrait photographs, and you confirmed that it would.**Our Response**

Your request for information has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I can confirm that Hertfordshire County Council does hold the information you have requested, and can respond as follows: -

**Please would you provide me with the following information:****For the financial years 2019-20 and 2020-21 to date:**[The Council is not aware of any commissioned portraits in the medium of painting, drawing or engraving from 2019 to date.](#)

There has been one photograph that falls within your criteria as follows: -

- 1. How much money has the council spent in total on commissioned portraits (i.e. a painting, drawing or engraving of a person)?**

£581

- 2. How much money has the council spent in total on purchased portraits (i.e. a painting, drawing or engraving of a person)?**

Nil

- 3. For portraits commissioned who was the subject (e.g. member of staff, council leader etc)?**

Colette Wyatt-Lowe, Council Chairman.

- 4. If possible, I would be grateful for a breakdown of spending**

- a. Cost of each portrait**

£581

- b. Name of artist**

Pete Stevens - <http://www.creativeempathy.com/>

- c. Room hire costs**

Nil

- d. Number of sittings**

Two

- e. Any other fees / charges incurred**

The invoice for £581 included all costs associated with creating the portrait plus a CD intended for Hertfordshire County Council archive containing all files connected with the commission.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, quoting the reference above. To find out more about Freedom of Information, please visit <http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/your-council/work/foi/>

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If you are unhappy with the way the County Council has handled your request for information you may request an internal review of the request. This will be carried out by a member of the County Council Legal Services Team, who has had no prior involvement with the request. Requests for an internal review should be sent to the Information Governance Unit at the address above.

If you are unhappy with the outcome of the internal review you are entitled to ask the Information Commissioner to investigate your complaint. You should write to: FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

**Ingrid Howard**  
Information Access Practitioner

**Information Access Team**

**Hertfordshire County Council**

223 County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8DE, Postal Point: CH0320

T: 01992 555848 (**Internal 25848**)

E: [information.governance@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:information.governance@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

