From: Freedom of Information Requests Sent: 13 May 2025 16:58 To: Subject: FOI Response -

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 23 April 2025 for information about the Council finances. Please find below City of Doncaster Council's responses to the questions you have raised.

Request

During the 2024/25 tax year: How much did you receive in council tax payments? How much did you spend on employer contributions to the Local Government Pension Scheme? Please can you send me the same figures for the four preceding tax years, so 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Response

Data relating to the 2024/25 financial year:

This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 22 of the Freedom of information Act. Section 22 exempts information from the right of access under the Freedom of Information Act if it is information intended for future publication. The information you have requested is planned to be published on the City of Doncaster Council's website <u>here</u> by the end of May 2025 as part of the published draft 2024/25 Statement of Accounts.

As Section 22 is a qualified exemption, the Council is obliged to consider whether disclosure of the information would be in the public interest before refusing to supply the information. Therefore, the Council has taken the following factors into account:

Factors for disclosing information:

- The council wishes to operate in an open and transparent way
- We recognise that decisions and plans should be open to accountability
- The information will be of interest to members of the public

Factors for withholding information:

- It is unfair to provide individual members of the public with access to the information prior to it being available to all
- Disclosure of partial or incomplete information may be detrimental and may not provide accurate details
- To release the information now may be misleading and unreliable as it may be subject to change
- There is a planned programme of publication for this information. The Council considers that it is reasonable to wait until the planned disclosure dates
- The Statement of Accounts document is in draft and has not yet been finalised. To release the document at this stage may result in numerous queries which we are not able to give accurate responses to until the data is finalised

Taking these factors into consideration, the Council has decided that the reasons for withholding the information outweigh those for disclosing it and we will not be providing the information at this time.

Data relating to the 2020/21 – 2023/24 financial years:

This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 21 exempts information from the right of access if that information is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. The information you have requested is available from published Statement of Accounts (SoA) documents which can be found <u>here</u>. This page has a link to the most recently audited set of accounts near the top, with prior years linked further down.

For ease of access, we can provide the following guidance:

Council Tax Income:

The 'Collection Fund Statement' (page 94 on the 2023/24 SoA), shows the total Council Tax income receivable to City of Doncaster Council (£166.389m in 2023/24). Note, this includes Precepts collected on behalf of the police and fire services, and parish councils.

Contributions to the Local Government Pension Scheme:

'Note 39 Defined Benefit Pension Scheme' (page 85 on the 2023/24 SoA), shows the employers contributions payable to the scheme (£26.513m in 2023/24)

I hope that this information is useful to you.

The City of Doncaster Council estimates that it has cost £49 to respond to this request for information.

Reviewing any decisions made:

If you are not happy with this reply you can ask us to review our response. To do this write to us within 40 working days of receiving your response at the address below or email <u>FOIAppeals@doncaster.gov.uk</u>

If you do not agree with the review decision you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision about our compliance or otherwise with the Freedom of Information legislation. Contact details for the ICO are: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. <u>www.ico.org.uk</u> Telephone 0303 123 1113.

Yours faithfully, Ellen Dook Information Governance Officer Corporate Resources City of Doncaster Council

Address Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU Website <u>www.doncaster.gov.uk</u>