

Dear Councillor Down

Further to my email of 21 July 2015, I am now in a position to respond to your request for information of 21 July 2015, which was:

How much is your presence at the Royal Welsh Show costing taxpayers? Please include staff costs in addition to "hard" costs

From the information we have collated to date, the total cost of our attendance is £17,343.25 including VAT where applicable. Please note that this amount includes some staff expenses claims, but there may be additional claims that have not yet been made. Please note that elements of the aforementioned amount are our best estimate. For example, we do not hold recorded information for the amount of some promotional items that we gave out. Furthermore, some of the items used were from existing stock and were not bought specifically for our attendance at the event. Nevertheless, we have included them in our calculations for completeness. Also, certain items that we purchased will be re-used at future events. I will contact you again when we have collated all remaining staff expenses claims and we will publish the final total on our website in due course.

The reason we attended the event was to boost our engagement with the public. Our annual plan for 2015-16 http://www.audit.wales/system/files/publications/annual_plan_2015_english_final.pdf sets out our three year priorities, one of which is to "Engage more effectively with the public, their representatives and other stakeholders to gauge the impact of our work, assess our performance and measure our success". The Board carefully considered the costs and benefits of attending this event before a final decision on attendance was made. With regard to the event we had four objectives:

1. Informing members of the public about what we do
2. Listening to what people have to say about the public services we audit
3. Gathering feedback from members of the public on what they know about our organisation and the work we do, and
4. Using the show to promote WAO careers and, in particular, our graduate recruitment scheme.

I have not applied any exemptions, however if you wish to complain about my handling of your request, please email or write to me.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Ian Phillips

Dear Councillor Down

Further to my email of 18 August 2015, I am now in a position to provide you with the final cost of our attendance at the Royal Welsh Show. The previous figure I gave to you was £17,343.25 including VAT where applicable, but as I set out in my email of 18 August 2015, that amount was subject to any remaining staff expenses claims. We have now received all staff expenses claims and the total cost of our attendance was £17,903.27 including VAT where applicable.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Ian Phillips