

**Corporate Management**  
**Our ref:** MGLA070116-2412

**Date:** 21 January 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

## **Freedom of Information request**

Thank you for your further email of 30 December 2015.

My response to your FOI request is as follows:

1.1 The information sent to you on 22 December 2015 was for the Progress and Verification (PAV) visit to North London Business carried out under Article 13 of the EU Regulations. Two other monitoring visits were undertaken, the first a Project Engagement Visit on 4 November 2009, the second a PAV visit on 11-12 August 2011. Copies of the reports on those visits are attached. The report of the PAV visit in August 2011 was produced in a different format to the one of the visit in June 2013 sent to you previously, due to standard templates being introduced for all ERDF programmes in England in 2012.

1.2. As you are aware, claims submitted by NLL were paid to the value of £591,500 ERDF. All claims were submitted quarterly on-line on MCIS and were verified by LDA/GLA officers to ensure that all expenditure was in line with the Department for Communities and Local Government's eligibility guidance for ERDF. Expenditure incurred was mostly for salaries, overheads and events costs incurred by NLL and its delivery partners, in line with forecasts provided by NLL at application stage.

2. NLL's signed accounts were not provided prior to ERDF being awarded. Instead, it was agreed in discussions with LDA's Due Diligence Team that the European Team would not carry out assessments on the financial viability of the organisation, but that where they had concerns they would raise these with the Due Diligence Team. In the event no concerns were raised as all claims - submitted quarterly and paid in arrears - met eligibility requirements.

3. We do not know the identity of claimant against NLL which led to the appointment of the Official Receiver.

4. In response to your further FOI enquiry about the role of LDA, I confirm that LDA was not involved in setting up North London Business Limited.

5. I trust the above answers your questions.

6. Please be aware that under the *Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulation 2004* the GLA can refuse requests under section 12 of the FoI Act where it estimates that the time taken to comply with that request – i.e. to search for, locate, retrieve and extract the requested information – exceeds 18 hours of work. Section 12(4) of the Act provides that where the GLA is entitled to aggregate the cost of complying with two or more requests made by the same individual over a 60 working day period, where those requests ask for the same or similar information. Although we are not citing these provisions at the present time, I wanted to ensure that you are aware of these provisions in the future as we note that we have now responded to six FoIA requests from you since the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 on this matter. The annex to this letter sets out more details on Section 12.

7. If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, ensuring that you quote the reference at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the complaints procedure, available at: <http://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/greater-london-authority-gla/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/3244/pdfs/uksi\\_20043244\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/3244/pdfs/uksi_20043244_en.pdf)

## **Annex**

Sections 12(1) are as follows:

To provide the information you have requested in these requests would exceed the 'Appropriate limit' of £450 set by the Freedom of Information (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The FoIA Fees Regulations provide that we can aggregate the cost of compliance (under section 12) where for the following conditions of the regulations are met:

1. In circumstances in which this regulation applies, where two or more requests for information to which section 1(1) of the 2000 Act would, apart from the appropriate limit, to any extent apply, are made to a public authority—
  - a. by one person, or
  - b. by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign
2. This regulation applies in circumstances in which—
  - a the two or more requests relate, to any extent, to the same or similar information
  - b. those requests are received by the public authority within any period of sixty consecutive working days.

Further details can be found on the link below

[https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1199/costs\\_of\\_compliance\\_exceeds\\_appropriate\\_limit.pdf](https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1199/costs_of_compliance_exceeds_appropriate_limit.pdf)