

**Freedom of Information request regarding costs, personnel and tendering process for 'Arts Council England's analysis of its investment in large scale opera and ballet' in 2012**

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [FOI](#)

**To:** Redacted

**Sent:** Friday, November 04, 2016 12:01 PM

**Subject:** RE: Freedom of Information Enquiry.

Dear **Redacted**

Thank you for your request for information from the Arts Council.

As previously mentioned, I can confirm that this request was considered in line with our obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

**Your request:**

*In 2012 the Arts Council undertook an analysis of its investment in large scale opera and ballet.*

*The report was published as: 'Arts Council England's analysis of its investment in large scale opera and ballet'.*

*I would be most grateful if you could kindly provide me the cost of preparing the report by:*

1. *Arts Council staff involved.*
2. *The specialist external consultants employed by the Arts Council. The consultants included:*
  - *Anthony Blackstock.*
  - *The Audience Agency.*
  - *Prue Skene.*
  - *Thoughtsmith.*

**Our Response:**

1. Arts Council staff involved

We do not hold a record of the total staff time allocated to producing this publication and we are therefore unable to provide a full cost breakdown of preparing the report in relation to all the Arts Council England staff involved.

The staff member who coordinated the opera ballet analysis project undertook 54 days work on the activity between 2012-15 and received an Extra Responsibility Allowance of £10,493.56.

2. The specialist external consultants employed by Arts Council England

- Anthony Blackstock Ltd £53,592.96
- The Audience Agency £11,998.80
- Prue Skene £11,950.10
- Thoughtsmith £9,990.00

**Total £87,531.86**

I hope the information being provided is helpful. If you do have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

We hope you are satisfied with the way in which we have dealt with your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act, however, if you are not satisfied that this is the case then you are entitled to an internal review. If you do wish for an internal review of the manner in which we have applied the Freedom of Information Act in this case, please contact me at the address above, explaining what specifically you would like us to review under the Act. Alternatively you can detail your specific concerns in writing and send them to the Chief Executive, Arts Council England, 21 Bloomsbury Street, London, WC1B 3HF or email to [chiefexecutive@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:chiefexecutive@artscouncil.org.uk)

Subsequently, if you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Kind regards

**Redacted**  
Officer, Information

Telephone: 0161 934 4341

Email [foi@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:foi@artscouncil.org.uk)

----- Original Message -----

**From:** FOI

**To:** Redacted

**Sent:** Thursday, November 24, 2016 2:28 PM

**Subject:** RE: Freedom of Information Enquiry.

Dear **Redacted**

Thank you for your request for information from the Arts Council.

As previously mentioned, I can confirm that this request was considered in line with our obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

**Your request:**

*Thank you for your message dated 4th November, in response to my Freedom of Information request and for the information and answers to the questions I raised.*

*Whilst not at this stage triggering the formal internal review process, I have two further questions. First, can you kindly provide me with information as to how the four specialist external consultants, employed by the Arts Council England, were recruited. Secondly, was there a formal tendering process?*

**Our Response:**

In order to recruit the consultants for Arts Council England's analysis of its investment in large scale opera and ballet we followed our tendering process. The largest of the contracts (Anthony Blackstock Ltd) was offered to a

member of our consultants panel which is periodically re-tendered. The other three were based on proposals (including budgets) against an individual brief. All contracts awarded by Arts Council England are issued using our standard terms and conditions, which are available to view via our [website](#).

Arts Council England procures goods, services and works by either issuing competitive tenders or invitations to quote in line with UK government policy and all relevant legal requirements. Our procurement activity aims to obtain value for money while achieving our goal of delivering great art to everyone. Further information on procurement within Arts Council England can be found on our [buyer profile site](#).

I hope the information being provided is helpful. If you do have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

We hope you are satisfied with the way in which we have dealt with your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act, however, if you are not satisfied that this is the case then you are entitled to an internal review. If you do wish for an internal review of the manner in which we have applied the Freedom of Information Act in this case, please contact me at the address above, explaining what specifically you would like us to review under the Act. Alternatively you can detail your specific concerns in writing and send them to the Chief Executive, Arts Council England, 21 Bloomsbury Street, London, WC1B 3HF or email to [chiefexecutive@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:chiefexecutive@artscouncil.org.uk)

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Kind regards

**Redacted**

Officer, Information

Telephone: 0161 934 4341

Email [foi@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:foi@artscouncil.org.uk)