

CITY OF BELMONT  
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Cloverdale  
Western Australia 6985

Council Ref :  
Customer Ref :  
Enquiries : 9477 7222

215 Wright Street  
Cloverdale  
Western Australia 6105

24 March 2020

Ms Lisa Hollands  
President  
Belmont Resident and Ratepayer Action Group  
PO Box 73  
CLOVERDALE WA 6105

Dear Ms Hollands

***LETTER DATED 9 MARCH 2020 REGARDING LEGAL COSTS***

Thank you for your letter requesting substantial additional information relating to a variety of aspects associated with legal expenses incurred by the City. Please see responses below.

**1. Costs associated with State Administrative Tribunal costs of legal representation:**

Relevant response has been provided to you on 14 February 2020 as confirmed by the Acting Chief Executive Officer on 10 March 2020.

**2. How much has the City paid for external legal advice, including costs such as travel and entertainment in the past three years?**

Given the scope of this question the Acting Chief Executive Officer has determined that the allocation of resources to collate this information is inappropriate and no information will be provided on this matter. This information can be collated from publicly available Minutes of the City and I recommend that, if this information is considered important for your own purposes, you undertake a review of payments information provided to Ordinary Council Meetings during this period. This information can be sourced at:

<http://www.belmont.wa.gov.au/Council/AgendasMinutes/Pages/MinutesAndAgendas.aspx?CategoryId=1>

**3. How much was paid individually to each legal firm that was used?**

This information is available in the same manner as 2 above.

**4. Who is the City employee who is the primary source of any legal advice?**

No employee of the City is able to provide legal advice to the City in the capacity of a lawyer.

**5. How many hearings (directions, final hearings / trials) at the State Administrative Tribunal, Magistrates Court and Supreme Court has the City attended and / or required some form of representation (Court Attendances) in the last three years?**

Given the scope of this question the Acting Chief Executive Officer has determined that the allocation of resources to collate this information is inappropriate and no information will be provided on this matter. It should be noted that information of this nature is available on the State Administrative Tribunal website at: <https://www.sat.justice.wa.gov.au/>.

**6. At how many of those Court Attendances was an external legal service provider in attendance / providing advice and what was the cost of their attendances and advice on those matters?**

Given the scope of this question the Acting Chief Executive Officer has determined that the allocation of resources to collate this information is inappropriate and no information will be provided on this matter.

**7. How many prosecutions were considered and progressed and were external legal services provided? If so how much was spent on these legal services for prosecutions?**

Given the scope of this question the Acting Chief Executive Officer has determined that the allocation of resources to collate this information is inappropriate and no information will be provided on this matter.

Alternatively the Belmont Resident and Ratepayer Action Group (BRRAG) can make an application to obtain any information available in accordance with the Freedom of Information legislation, noting that an application fee will apply, along with any additional administration costs to the collate the information. Please note that whilst you may choose to pursue FOI, as is your right, if you choose to pursue that option it will require the reallocation of staff resources away from other tasks that are required to be fulfilled. Please be mindful that this will ultimately impact on the service delivery to the ratepayers of the City of Belmont.

Yours faithfully



**ROBIN GARRETT**  
**DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE**