



Community Resources
Executive Director **Norrie Anderson**
Facilities & Cultural Services

Mr Robert Freel
Stonehouse Community Council
75 Lockhart Street
Stonehouse
ML9 3LX

Our ref: FOI/10/060
Your ref:
If calling ask for: David Booth
Phone: 01698 455302
Date: 24 May 2010

Dear Mr Freel

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002
Request for Information

I refer to your request for information received on 25 April 2010 in which you asked the Council for the following information:

1. Provide the names of all the groups taking out a hire/let for all halls within Stonehouse for the **financial year** 2009-2010. The information to show the number of hire/lets for the year and the category of hire rate that was applied. I.e. community, social or commercial and the cost per let.
2. Provide details on how each of the following categories of rates are determined.
 - a. Community Rate
 - b. Social Rate
 - c. Commercial Rate.
3. We have also been advised that Pre-5 non commercial lets are free of charge from April 2010. Can you provide details of how you determine if a group is classed as non commercial and what checks you carry out to ensure this is correct?
4. Can you confirm that all halls across South Lanarkshire have the same rates applied no matter the condition or size?
5. Provide details of any groups in South Lanarkshire that have a special rate applied that falls out-with the three different rates listed in 2) above. Detail to include Name of Group and rate applied along with reason why it applies.
6. How many hall lets for regular bookings have been cancelled in Stonehouse since 1st April 2010.
7. How may hall lets for regular bookings been cancelled in other towns and villages in South Lanarkshire since 1st April 2010

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Information Provided

The Council can provide you with most of the information you have requested as follows:

1. The attached spreadsheet provides the names of all groups taking out a hire/let for all halls within Stonehouse for the financial year 2009-2010. Please note that the new categorisation into community, social or commercial did not apply until 01 April 2010 which is outwith the financial year 2009-2010. I have however attached a comparison of charges for financial year 2009/10 against financial year 2010/11.
2. The charges have been devised to take into account different types of users with a Commercial rate for businesses and those charging customers for their services, a Social rate for those wishing to use premises for private functions/events and a Community rate for community groups. Additionally every effort is being made to ensure that the application of the commercial rate is only applied to business users and those charging customers for their services. To this end, customers who believe that they have been incorrectly charged the commercial rate are being considered on a case by case basis.

Some other features of the review include:-

- Increasing the level of free access to senior citizens on a Monday to Friday from 9am – 10pm (was originally 6pm).
 - Providing free access to recognised community led Pre 5 Mother & Toddlers Groups.
 - Removing the charge for alcohol consumption and kitchen hire when a hall is booked for a social event.
 - Phasing in, over a two year period, the hire charges for community use of halls, all halls being standardised in terms of their charging rate by 1 April 2012.
3. You are correct in stating that Pre-5 non commercial lets are free. If the pre-5 non commercial let can demonstrate charitable status then there will be no fee charged. This can be checked by confirming and checking the registered charity number of the organisation.
 4. The categories of charge are differentiated by the size of the area used for the activity within the hall based on the number of square meters of each space. With regard to the condition of each hall, all maintenance and repairs are carried out in accordance with SLC policy. Each individual repair is assessed and prioritised in terms of their Health & Safety and budget implications. As it is difficult to set hall hires charges in relation to the cost of repairs which vary widely, the condition of each hall is not taken into account when setting charges.
 5. At the current time, there are no special rates applied out with those detailed in point 2 above.
 6. At the current time we have record of 3 regular bookings being cancelled in Stonehouse since 1 April 2010.
 7. Since the 1 April 2010 there have been 35 regular hall let bookings cancelled in other towns in South Lanarkshire.

Information not provided

Part of the information you have requested is not held by the Council and this information is therefore withheld under Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

1. In part 1 of your request you asked for a categorisation of hire rate that was applied for each let, i.e. community, social or commercial for the financial year 2009/2010. This method of categorising halls lets was only introduced in April 2010 and therefore this information is not held by the Council for the period prior to that.

Request for Review

We have an internal panel (the review panel) to deal with complaints from people who are not happy about the way that we have handled their request for information. Staff not involved in the original decision will handle any review.

If you want to complain about how we have handled your request for information, you can ask the review panel to reassess our actions. Please note that if you wish to complain, you must do so by 20 July 2010. You must explain why you are not happy when requesting a review.

You should send your request for a review to:

Mr. W. Dunn
Legal Services Adviser
Corporate Resources
Montrose House
154 Montrose Crescent
Hamilton, ML3 6LL

Alternatively, you can request a review at foi.reviews@southlanarkshire.gov.uk.

Appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner

If you are not happy with the outcome of the review, you can complain to the Scottish Information Commissioner. The Commissioner will decide whether we have dealt with your request properly. Please see the Commissioner's website at www.itspublicknowledge.info for further details.

If I can provide you with any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D Booth', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Booth
Operations Manager

Comparison of Charges for Financial Year 2009/10 against Financial Year 2010/11

Stonehouse Public hall 2009/2010 Charges

Community - £3.11 per hour
Social - £12.55 per hour
Negotiated – Negotiable
50% Surcharge after 10pm
Consumption of Alcohol Charge - £14.55

2010/11 Charges

Community - £5.00 per hour
Social - £16.55 per hour
Fixed Commercial - £24.85 per hour
No Surcharge after 10pm and No Consumption of Alcohol Charge

Stonehouse Institute 2009/2010 Charges

Community - £2.99 per hour
Social – £12.55 per hour
Negotiated – Negotiable
50% Surcharge after 10pm
Consumption of Alcohol Charge - £14.55

2010/2011 Charges

Community - £4.95 per hour
Social - £16.55 per hour
Commercial - £24.85 per hour
No Surcharge after 10pm and No Consumption of Alcohol Charge

Stonehouse Senior Citizens 2009/2010 Charges

Community - £2.21 per hour
Social - £8.06 per hour
Negotiated – Negotiable
50% Surcharge after 10pm
Consumption of Alcohol Charge - £14.55

2010/2011 Charges

Community - £3.40 per hour
Social - £10.90 per hour
Commercial - £16.35 per hour
No Surcharge after 10pm and No Consumption of Alcohol Charge