


SHQ - Warren, Bob

From: SHQ - Mattinson, Keith
Sent: 27 January 2010 14:54
To: SHQ - Warren, Bob
Subject: FW: Response to Audit Comm Query

for info

Keith Mattinson
Director of Finance
Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service
Tel 01772 866805


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commitment to the Environment

From: SHQ - Mattinson, Keith
Sent: 27 January 2010 14:54
To: Ardis, Barry
Subject: FW: Response to Audit Comm Query

Barry

Please see comments from Bob Warren below, any queries you might be better speaking to him direct on 01772 866804

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Director of Finance
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From: SHQ - Warren, Bob
Sent: 27 January 2010 13:40
To: SHQ - Mattinson, Keith
Cc: SHQ - Harold, Anthony
Subject: RE: Response to Audit Comm Query

Keith
Without seeing the letter from the Audit Commission it is difficult to fully respond as my response is based on guess work

I presume the issue has arisen as a result of a letter from Mr Burns to the Audit Commission but it might be as a result of a letter LFRS have sent to the Audit Commission

This is because in preparation for our legal action we wrote on 20 January to the Audit Commission (including a copy of the screen print) asking for them to release some information (as depending on their answer we would need to consider whether or not it is appropriate to include them in our process). We also do not want to be challenged that we have not done all we can in our power to gather the information, effectively highlighting Mr Burns obfuscation.

I was not aware that a screen print should not be disclosed. Nor do I understand the reasoning. We were in contact with Mr Burns concerning our inability to calculate the element of his pension that was related to a service injury. During this process we received as part of the NFI process the information that he was in receipt of a benefit payment. The benefit was one that ordinarily would be deducted from his injury pension. We wrote to Mr Burns in June bringing this to his attention and asking for his explanation. We have not received a direct response from him to this letter or the repeat.

The reason for disclosing the information to Mr Burns was to give him the opportunity to explain the circumstances and to offer any explanation as to why the amount should not be deducted from his injury award element.

Although I could not see any explanation I did not jump to the conclusion that there was no explanation. We are under an obligation to ensure proper discharge of public funds and we were following the Audit Commission guidance in that the match indicates an inconsistency that needs to be explored hence asking the individual for an explanation. The nature of Mr Burns interaction with the service was such that it was thought mentioning the Audit Commission NFI would improve the chances of him responding.

On a point of accuracy the paragraph that ends with the word "suspended" should be amended along the lines of "as LFRS were unable to accurately calculate the amount, if any, due "
Bob

From: SHQ - Warren, Bob
Sent: 26 January 2010 17:46
To: SHQ - Mattinson, Keith
Subject: RE: Response to Audit Comm Query

Keith
Yes, I will look at this tomorrow. it appears to be contradictory to their advice about the data matching exercise and our legal obligations in respect of payment of pensions
Bob

From: SHQ - Mattinson, Keith
Sent: 26 January 2010 16:54
To: SHQ - Warren, Bob
Subject: FW: Response to Audit Comm Query

re our discussion, anything you want to add?

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