

Please ask for : Alethea Fuller
Telephone Number: 0121 626 6060
Our Reference: 2024-00188
wmpcc@westmidlands.police.uk



Date: 17/04/2024

Dear FOI Applicant,

Thank you for your freedom of information request received in this office on **25 March** 2024 in which you asked:

'On 21st March 2024, a statement from yourself was released on West Midlands PCC website and social media stating that: "The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Simon Foster has revealed the up to £3.5 million of costs arising from the Mayor's decision to "execute a hostile takeover of PCC powers", if it were to proceed."

Please provide a breakdown of all costs that make up this £3.5m and what organisation that cost relates to.'

In response to your request, I can confirm that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) holds the following information.

In a "Statutory Notice of Urgent Key Decision" published on 11 December 2023, the West Midlands Combined Authority Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer estimated that "the increase in costs associated with the new Mayoral elections may be...potentially in the region of £3million". She noted that "The Combined Authority Section 151 Officer has been made aware of this potential cost". A copy of this public statutory notice is attached – 'FOI_31-Breakdown of costs of Mayor takeover – Attachment 1'. This document was published by West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), and can also be accessed via the following link - [Issue details - Special Urgency Notice - The West Midlands Combined Authority \(Transfer of Police and Crime Commissioner Functions\) Order 2023 :WMCA](#)

Furthermore, correspondence from election officials planning for the Mayoral and PCC elections indicated sunk costs for local authorities of up to £100,000.

The OPCC estimates suggest that total costs of the transfer programme for the OPCC and WMCA, including management and staff time, project management support, IT licensing costs, and training were in the order of £400,000.

£3.5 million is an estimate of the combined direct and indirect costs that have or would have fallen on or transferred to West Midlands Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, West Midlands Combined Authority and central government departments.

Freedom of Information Right of Appeal

Any person who has requested information from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and is unhappy with the way their request for information has been handled can request a review of their case.

A request for review must be made in writing by letter or email. You should include the reference number of your request if you have it, and outline why you are requesting the review to:

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Lloyd House
Birmingham
B4 6NQ

Telephone: 0121 626 6060
Email: wmpcc@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

All requests for review will be recorded. Receipt of a request for internal review will be acknowledged and the appellant informed of an estimated date for determining the outcome. The OPCC will attempt to respond to internal reviews as soon as practicable and in any case within two months.

All investigations will be undertaken by someone not involved in the original response.

The result of any internal review will be communicated to the appellant outlining the decisions taken.

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 08456 30 60 60 or 01625 54 57 45
Website: www.ico.gov.uk

There is no charge for making a request for internal review or appeal to the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Fuller', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Alethea Fuller
Deputy Chief Executive