

**Email from UNISON branch to Peter Grogan, Corporate Information & Governance Manager, 25 October 2010**

UNISON is now making a formal FOI request for access to the SW1 report commissioned by the Leader.

UNISON believes that this report falls under FOI disclosure as:

- a) It is a public interest report - significant shortfalls in SW1-based procurement have added £15m of savings not made pressures into MTFP - how this administration and Chief Officers deal with SW1 under-performance is a key component of dealing with the cuts in services and jobs resulting from the recent Coalition Government CSR.
- b) SW1 has now added a £2.5m pressure from a lack of gain share into SCC MTFP - enough to finance services or 100 voluntary redundancies
- c) The report was led by Members who receive allowances & payments from public funds
- d) Paid Officers of SCC provided information to the SW1 review report
- e) SW1 has accumulated losses of £19m and whether IBM will increase charges to the public partners or reduce services for the contract payments to recover the losses is a matter of public interest.

UNISON is expecting redaction to be only for those parts of the report that disclose margin sensitive information - as per last year's Veolia v Notts case.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email and advise UNISON as to what date we may expect disclosure.

Regards,

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The FOI act states that the general public have a right to access information held by Public authorities, such as Somerset County Council (SCC).

As I have not seen the report and I do not know what it contains (if indeed it exists) I can only advise that you that you have the right to raise the FOI request and that it will be dealt with by SCC according to the FOI Act (including exemptions) and the guidelines from the Information Commissioner.

Regards

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**Information Governance Manager**  
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**Email from UNISON branch to Peter Grogan, Corporate Information & Governance Manager, 23 October 2010**

Peter,

Had an out of office note for Neil, so raising this with you.

Regards,

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**Email from UNISON branch to Neil Pack, Group Manager - Programmes, 23 October 2010**

Neil,

The SW1 Report was resourced by elected and paid SCC Councillors, gathering information from paid Officers of SCC. It concerns open matters of public interest & publicly funded.

Given that information, can you advise UNISON whether this report of a matter with direct relevance to pay & conditions negotiations (see below) and of public interest to the people of Somerset, would fall under disclosure were an FOI request be made by UNISON or another appropriate party.

Given the Cabinet papers released yesterday for Nov 1st, UNISON would be obliged for your professional opinion before that meeting.

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**Email from UNISON branch to Ken Maddock, 22 October 2010**

Ken,

We did hear on the radio interview this morning that Sheila was asked a SW1 question.

Can we make some relevant points:

a) By April 2011, SW1 Procurement was forecast to have saved £18m. The actual savings are, in a world of £billions, "diddly squat" or maybe £3m.

To lighten, but not diminish the seriousness, of a dark day in Somerset County Council's 130+ year history:

<http://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=diddly-squat>

b) Sheila highlighted the investment by IBM into SW1. Our understanding was that SCC put £35m into that investment, of which £30m was added to our borrowing (without dissent at the time). So the investments are principally SCC-funded, not IBM-funded surely?

There has been quite a controversy at the Liverpool City Council with BT JVC, where investment claims by the contractor were found to be greatly exaggerated.

Can you please tell us the value of IBM investments into SCC, excluding those like SAP that SCC funded.

With a diminishing workforce and having worked extensively in the private sector & for myself, I am struggling to see the logic in "spot pay"? How can annual savings of less than £1m/year that will impact on the 70% of the workforce remaining be good business? These are the people you want to help you through these difficult times.

If the SW1 JVC can be put on to a proper footing, surely a pay cut through "spot pay" could be avoided, along with the loss of motivation, morale & goodwill that will ensue if people think it is an unfair measure.

Can we now please see the SW1 report and how that improvement will be achieved?

Regards,