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Dear

FOI Request: FOI 05/2019

Your request for information regarding the expenses of the Police and Crime Commissioner has now been considered in line with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and, to the best of our knowledge, the information we hold which relates to your request is as follows:

1. The Home Office guidelines for P.C.C. expenses advise there is no provision for lunch expenses. The Derby meeting of 31st January 2017 was a lunch meeting for which there is no provision to claim expenses so why was this claim reimbursed?

This items falls under the “exceptional expenses” section of the guidance as it was hospitality related to a business meeting. It was approved by the CE as per the guidelines

2. As £62.85 was spent at the lunch meeting of 31st January 2017, what items did this amount purchase before the P.C.C. undertook the 123 mile round trip to Glossop?

Lunch for 2 including non-alcoholic drinks.

3. Parking at Derby railway station cost £29 for 18th July 2017. Why did the P.C.C not use a taxi service? (Taxi fare cost £8.50 from home to station: 13/09/17).

PCC Dhindsa had a radio interview with BBC Radio Derby immediately upon his return from London and then was going straight to the Council meeting in Derby so it was essential he used his own car due to the tight timescales.

4. The Home Office Instructions for P.C.C. expenses advises up to £30 may be claimed for an evening meal. Why was a claim made for £32.70 for an evening meal on 23rd September 2017?

This was an oversight and the limits will be reinforced going forward.

5. My question about underground tickets has not been answered. I asked about the claims for London underground tickets for 20/10/2017 and 23/10/2017. This was because the P.C.C was not in London on those days - he was in Chesterfield and Chatsworth.

This was a clerical error – it should have been 17/18 and 19th October for both entries – the date was entered incorrectly. Thank you for pointing it out.

6. Why was a senior railcard not purchased until 24th July 2018? Twelve journeys had been made since January 2018 where good savings could have been made. Four were made in July 2018 up to and including 23rd July and there is good advertising about railcards at Derby railway station.

Mr Dhindsa was not aware that he was eligible for a senior railcard or that savings for the Office were possible. When he became aware, he bought a railcard.

7. Why is there a claim for £33.10 for an evening meal on 23rd September 2018 when maximum claim is £30?

See answer to question 4.

8. There are claims on behalf of staff members, e.g. 22/06/2018
28/06/2018
08/08/2018
21/08/2018

The Home Office Instructions makes no provision for lunch expenses. Should the staff members be making their own claims for expenses?

Only if they had paid for it themselves. In these instances, Mr Dhindsa paid for their lunches and is simply being reimbursed. This would fall under the “exceptional expenses” section of the guidelines.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marie Romano". The signature is written in a light grey or blue ink.

Marie Romano
On behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioner