

Freedom of Information Request received 30.12.15

A total of £20,546.32 of the Steyning Area Youth Service Charity (SAYS) reserves is derived from two grants; one from HDC and one from WSCC. I think the Bongo van also came from one of these bodies. The grants were made because these bodies were winding down their respective youth services.

Once funds are in the SAYS accounts they are liable to irrecoverable VAT as SAYS pays for goods and services. The same goods and services if paid for by SPC are in effect 20% cheaper because SPC can recover the VAT, I understand.

Accordingly it seems it would have been better if these grant payments had come to the parish councils rather than to SAYS and had then been used directly to purchase goods and services for the provision of the area youth service. There would have been a saving to the local tax-payer of around £4,000.

But maybe it is not too late.

I understand that at least one of these payments did actually come in to SPC before being paid out. **It seems to me that it would be useful if it could be established that one or both of these payments were made to SAYS in error. There would be a saving of this £4,000 or so to the local tax-payer if the money could now be recovered from SAYS by the parish councils and then used to pay HM.**

In the circumstances I would be grateful if under the FoI Act you could let me have copies of all correspondence exchanged and file notes of telephone calls with WSCC and with HDC regarding the circumstances in which the two grants were made by those bodies. Also any documentation relating to the transfer of ownership of the van. If it is correct that at least one of these payments came through SPC's books please could you identify for me the meeting at which the payment out to SAYS was authorised as I have not been able to find it?