

Personal Search Fees

The Council along with most other local authorities have outstanding claims in relation to the reimbursement of Local Land Charge Personal Search fees.

This came about as a result of the Government deciding that personal search fee information should have been obtainable under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. As a result the Government revoked the £22.00 fee by amending the legislation under the Local Land Charges Rules.

The amendment came into force in August 2010 and SDC stopped charging at that time but the claim was back dated to 2005.

Bevan Brittan has been representing all the authorities concerned with such authorities contributing to a pooled fund.

Initially the claim against this authority was [REDACTED]

The final settlement claim for this authority was announced on the 13th June and is [REDACTED]. However it has been stated that we could be hit by further claims but these are unknown.

The Government has already awarded each authority a sum of [REDACTED] to cover partly the loss of the search fee income and any claims that may be made.

However, at SDC we anticipated that we would be required to make a pay out and therefore decided to set aside this amount and therefore in reality the impact to the Council will be limited to [REDACTED] and we can meet the shortfall within budget.

Bevan Brittan is advising that the claim is settled and we accept the proposal being made.

We thought that it was important to bring this to Members' attention.