

East Lothian Council

FOI Ref: 2018/499784

I am seeking information about the value of the local authority pension fund's investment in tobacco shares and bonds, as well as the income from those investments. Please provide whatever answers you can to the following.

1. What is the most recent available value of the local authority's pension fund?

Information regarding East Lothian Council's (ELC) pension scheme is included in the annual statement of accounts (Note 27) which are published on our website. This means that, for the purposes of this legislation, this part of your request is exempt under Section 25(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 as the information is otherwise accessible. We have, however, provided a link to the relevant page for your convenience:

https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/file/23514/statement_of_accounts_2016-17

2. What is the value of the fund's directly-held investment in shares or bonds of the following companies: British American Tobacco, Imperial Brands, Japan Tobacco International, Altria Group Inc, Philip Morris International, Universal Corp, Alliance One International?

Lothian Pension Fund provide pension services for local government employees in Edinburgh and the Lothians area of Scotland. In view of this, under Section 17(1)(b) of the Act, I must formally advise you that ELC has been unable to comply with your request as the information you require is not held. We have, however, provided a link to the LPF website should you wish to contact them directly:

<http://www.lpf.org.uk/>

3. What is the total combined value of the fund's directly-held investments in the companies named above?

Please refer to Q2 above.

4. What income did the fund receive from these investments in the last 12-month period for which records are available?

Please refer to Q2 above.

5. Does the fund have any other investments in tobacco via pooled investments? What is the value of these?

Please refer to Q2 above.

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6. What is the local authority's annual spend on smoking-related illness?

Under Section 17(1)(b) of the Act, I must formally advise you that ELC has been unable to comply with this part of your request as the information you require is not held.

7. Please supply the number of deaths attributable to smoking in the local authority areas covered by your pension fund. Your Director of Public Health or equivalent should be able to supply this figure.

Under Section 17(1)(b) of the Act, I must formally advise you that ELC has been unable to comply with this part of your request as the information you require is not held.