

East Lothian Council

FOI Ref: 2018/512492

I am currently doing research into equal-pay settlements made by Scottish local authorities. Could you please email me answers to the following questions:

- How much, if anything, has the council paid out to settle equal-pay claims in each of the following years:

2004/05	N/A
2005/06	£3,068,000
2006/07	£960,000
2007/08	£48,000
2008/09	£1,778,000
2009/10	£163,864
2010/11	£182,000
2011/12	£74,000
2012/13	£3,000
2013/14	£137,145
2014/15	£22,000
2015/16	£52,000
2016	N/A
2017	N/A
2018	N/A

The above figures include all costs.

- Were any of these payments pensionable? If yes, please specify which years this applies to.

No

- Changes made to the Local Government Pension Scheme in 2014 stipulate that as equal-pay settlements are back pay rather than compensation they must be made pensionable. Will the council be revisiting any payments made after 2014 to make up the relevant pension contributions?

The Council settlements were compensation payments, not based on actual loss of salary. Therefore they were not subject to pension contribution deductions.

- How many equal pay claims are still outstanding against the council?

None

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- ***If the council agrees to settle these, will it make the payments pensionable?***

Not applicable

- ***Has the council received any claims relating specifically to pensionable pay, for example from someone who had already received a settlement?***

No

Finally, it may help to explain that Freedom of Information legislation only applies to information which is held or recorded by a public authority. It does not apply to views, opinions, intentions or questions which simply require a yes/no answer. In view of this, some of the questions asked are not technically valid for the purposes of this legislation as they are not requests for specific recorded information that East Lothian Council may or may not hold.

In order to assist you, however, colleagues have addressed the questions posed to the best of their knowledge. For future reference, a link to the "Tips for Requesters" page of the Scottish Information Commissioner's website has been provided which you may find useful:

<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Tipsforrequesters.aspx>