

Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council

Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE
Tel: (01709) 822700
E-mail: chris.read@rotherham.gov.uk
*Email the Council for **free** @ your local library!*

Our Ref: CR/EJH	Direct Line: (01709) 822700	Extension: 22770	Please Contact: Councillor Chris Read
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Mr Smith
by email

23 January 2020

Dear Mr Smith

Council Meeting – 22nd January 2020

It is regretful that you were unable to attend yesterday’s council meeting to ask your question, but I have taken the opportunity to provide you with a written response.

“Further to my question at the Council meeting on 24.7.19 and the response from the Leader, did RMBC pay legal costs of the investigators and how can the investigation into the Charity be independent when a gold group was set up from the onset that included senior staff from both RMBC and SYP with the investigators being answerable to them?”

The Council has paid for independent legal advice to be given to the independent investigators. This is not unusual for certain commissions and the advice was provided directly to the investigators, and not to the council. For the avoidance of doubt, the investigators had a direct relationship with their legal adviser and did not receive that advice via council officers.

In relation to the Gold Group, this was set up to oversee the independent investigation and comprised people undertaking their normal roles. It is normal to maintain oversight of a commissioned service in order to ensure that the Terms of Reference are complied with. This does not prevent a commission being independent.

I hope the information provided above is satisfactory and answers your question.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Chris Read
Leader of Rotherham Council