

Councillor Linda Beresford – Cabinet Member for Housing

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Please Ask For

Councillor Linda Beresford

12 June 2025

Councillor Ball

Via email: simon.ball@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Ball

Council Meeting – Wednesday 21st May 2025

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 21st May 2025. As portfolio holder with responsibility for selective licensing since 22nd May I would like to formally respond to the question submitted which I have set out below along with my response.

With the Council admitting it had to subsidise failed selective licensing inspections from general funds, and facing rising costs, why are you not publishing a full audit of where nearly a decade's worth of licensing fees have gone? Is Labour once again hiding poor financial management from public view?

Selective licensing license fee income is ring fenced. It can only be spent supporting the declaration's objectives, within the scheme boundaries. The subsidy provided by the general fund over the course of this scheme has, in the main, been to address national wage inflation over the 5 years since the scheme was declared and the fees set.

Any money generated from license fees is spent directly on administering selective licensing. During the previous scheme, this provided the additional resources for a proactive inspection of all private rented properties which means over 2,200 inspections were undertaken. This resulted in officers identifying 1,406 properties that contained category 1 or significant category 2 hazards meaning that families in those 1,406 properties have been positively impacted and better protected as a result of the scheme.

Alongside the housing issues, 1,290 statutory notices and 1,262 additional notices have been served for wider management issues including statutory nuisance and poor garden condition, for example.

The previous scheme ended on 30th April 2025, the Council is required to, and will, publish within 12 weeks of the scheme ending:

- The total value of licensing fees
- The total costs associated with the scheme

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Linda Beresford

Labour Member for Greasbrough Ward

Cabinet Member for Housing