

6OI REF:	14938
RESPONSE SENT:	06/11/2024

Request

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from the council on its Christmas spending over the last 8 years and its current budget for this year's festivities.

Please may you provide me with:

- 1) The council's total expenditure for Christmas decorations and events for every year from 2016 – 2023
- 2) How much the council budgeted for Christmas decorations and events for every year from 2016 – 2023
- 3) How much the council has budgeted for Christmas decorations and events for 2024
- 4) The councils 2024 Christmas budget broken down by category (Lights, Trees, events)

Response

The Christmas decorations in Winchester are paid for and organised by the Winchester BID (Business Improvement District). The BID only ask for an annual contribution to the cost of the lights from the City Council and the contribution has been £15,000 a year since 2016.

The City Council's special maintenance team help with the erection of the Christmas tree and associated signing, barriers etc for the switch on event. This work is fully recharged to The Winchester BiD and therefore not a cost to the Council.

Please refer to our FOI Disclosure Log and the recent response to a similar request. I have included links below.

[Freedom of Information \(FOI\) disclosure log - Winchester City Council](#)

[Christmas lights spending](#)

