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FAO Members of the Press, Ministers, MPs and Councillors

East Riding of Yorkshire Council / Arvato Group Contract

The attached **Decision Notice** from the **Information Commissioners Office** dated 22nd February 2018 refers to a Freedom of Information Request made to the East Riding of Yorkshire Council during May 2017 for details of this multi million pound contract which the council has failed to provide.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Parnaby is a director of Arvato and has been since 2005. As a director of a company which is involved with supplying services to his own council, Councillor Parnaby has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest under the terms of the Localism Act. This requires that a declaration of his directorship is made by him in the member`s register of interests and failure to do so is a criminal offence, the penalty for which can result in a £5,000 fine and disqualification for five years. Following many months of subterfuge, deceit and a huge amount of correspondence Councillor Parnaby was finally made to declare this DPI after my letter 3rd July 2017 provided documented evidence, 12 years after he was made a director.

The Decision Notice states that the East Riding of Yorkshire Council:

- failed to comply with the duty to confirm or deny within the statutory time limit therefore breaching section 1 (1) (a) and section 10 (1) and;
- Has failed to demonstrate that section 43 (2) of the FOIA is engaged, thus also breaching section 1 (1) (b).

The Commissioner requires the public authority to take the following steps to ensure compliance with the legislation .

- Disclose Schedule 15 of the Guarantee and Schedule 28 of the Joint Venture Agreement.

The public authority must take these steps within 35 calendar days of the date of this decision notice. Failure to comply may result in the Commissioner making a written certification of this fact to the High Court pursuant to section 54 of the Act and may be dealt with as a contempt of court.

Over several years others have tried to obtain detail information on this contract without success. My contact within County hall has informed me that some have even been threatened. The parts of the contract already received have proved Councillor Parnaby`s Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and confirmed the false statements made by his appointee, Chief Executive, Caroline Lacey.

I believe that the schedules withheld contain information of significant importance to the council tax payers and voters in the East Riding. Will the council comply with the legislation this time or risk contempt of court?

Regards

Peter Robinson