

**FOI Reference Number:** FOI/164/1920

**Date:** 29 August 2019

**Request:**

Please include the following information:

1. How many members of staff work as press officers in each of 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19?
2. How much was spent on speeches and presentations with outside bodies in each of 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19?

The figure should include any members of staff whose main duty is press relations, public relations, communications and social media. Your response should include both full-time and part-time members of staff, as well as any on any irregular contracts, such as consultants.

Speeches and presentations with outside bodies includes, but is not limited to, firms who provide strategic communications, public affairs, advertising and consultancy services. The speeches and presentations includes only those that were commissioned by your authority, with the intention of your authority's staff delivering the speech or presentation.

**Response:**

Thank you for your information request which Mid and East Antrim Borough Council received on 30 July 2019.

Please find below Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's response to the information you requested in relation to press officers.

**1. *Press officers - 2016-2017 - 1 (agency)***

***2017-2018 - 2***

***2018-2019 - 3***

**2. *Nil response - no spend.***

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of part of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Chief Executive at the Braid Ballymena Town Hall, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena, BT43 5EJ.

Please remember to quote the reference number FOI/164/1920 in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of an internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Please be advised that Mid and East Antrim Borough Council may release the response to this information request into the public domain via our website at <https://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/>.

If we publish our response to your request, your personal data will be removed to protect your privacy.