



# OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR NORFOLK

Reply to: Claire Buckley

Tel No: 01953 424455

22<sup>nd</sup> August 2017

Dear Member of the Public

## **Freedom of Information Request FOI/OPCCN/121**

I am writing in connection with your email dated 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017, in which you requested the following information:

**“If possible documentation relating to ‘taking stock’, commissioning of ‘auditors to review safeguarding’, correspondence with the Lantern Project about ‘assurances... areas of governance ,,auditors; and finally correspondence between OPCCN and the Lantern Project about the closure of the latter any information held by OPCCN should the latter have learned that the Lantern Project did not actually close, which it didn’t”**

I have reviewed our records and I can advise that we have identified three emails that address your FOI request and these have been redacted where appropriate to protect individual information and attached as three appendices.

Appendix 1 - An email exchange between the OPCCN and the Lantern Project entitled ‘RE: Grant Paying Date’

Appendix 2 – An email exchange between the OPCCN and our auditors TIAA entitled ‘Audit of the Lantern Project’

Appendix 3 – An email exchange between the OPCCN and the Lantern Project entitled ‘The Lantern Project’

Yours sincerely

*CBuckley*

Claire Buckley  
Freedom of Information Officer  
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk.

## Internal Review

If you think we have not supplied information in accordance with Section 1 (the General Right of Access) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, or you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been handled, then you should write, in the first instance, to:

Mark Stokes  
Chief Executive  
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk  
Building 8  
Jubilee House  
Falconers Chase  
Wymondham  
Norfolk  
NR18 0WW

Telephone: 01953 424455

Fax: 01953 424462

Email: [opccn@norfolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:opccn@norfolk.pnn.police.uk)

If you are dissatisfied in any way with our response or the way we have handled your request, you can contact us by phone, email or in writing. We may, in the first instance, try and resolve your complaint informally. However, at any stage you can request or we may decide to treat your complaint formally under our internal review process.

An internal review is conducted by the Chief Executive who will review the request and response, taking account of your complaint(s), and will respond in writing as soon as possible. The Information Commissioner's Officer recommends that a response should be made in 20 working days. If we are unable to respond in this timeframe we will inform you and provide a date by which you should expect to receive our response.

If, after the internal review, you remain dissatisfied then you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office, the government regulator for the Freedom of Information Act. Details of how to contact the Information Commissioner's Office can be found at [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

**From:** [OPCCN Grants](#)  
**To:** [Thompson, Gavin](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Grant paying date  
**Date:** 21 August 2017 15:30:33

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**From:** OPCCN Grants  
**Sent:** 05 October 2015 15:40  
**To:** 'The Lantern Project'  
**Subject:** RE: Grant paying date

Dear Mr Le Poidevin,

Thank you for your emails below. As promised we have reviewed content and would be very grateful if you would be kind enough to help clarify the following please;

You state with the withdrawal of Funding from the Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group that ten staff posts have been lost. Have all these ten posts now been re-instated?

Can you provide evidence that the Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group have re-instated their contract with the Lantern Project and that the 'stringent improvement' criteria have been removed?

The two emails that you sent last week were sent within a 24 hour period, could you please explain how the situation changed so rapidly?

With reference to the Child Abuse Inquiry Support Fund Grant, you asked two questions,

- a) **Q:** Would the grant agreement in place with the OPCCN for the Child Abuse Inquiry Support Fund be honoured?  
**A:** We will be able to answer this question once we have received and reviewed information requested above.
- b) **Q:** Would the OPCCN release The Lantern Project from the Grant Agreement terms and conditions and allow The Lantern Project to allocate monies to use as they see fit, other than the intended purpose of the grant?  
**A:** I am sorry this would not be possible.

I note you have sent your invoice for the next payment, however until we have reviewed this matter, the invoice will not be processed. In addition, pending outcomes from above, we would require a completed Grant Monitoring Report to be completed (this was sent out earlier today) prior to payment.

I hope this answers the questions you raised and I look forward to receiving requested information.

Many thanks,

*Kind regards*

*Stephie*

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Stephanie Stearman

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**From:** The Lantern Project [<mailto:lanternproject@yahoo.co.uk>]  
**Sent:** 02 October 2015 14:51  
**To:** OPCCN Grants <[OPCCNGrants@norfolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:OPCCNGrants@norfolk.pnn.police.uk)>  
**Cc:** XXXXXXXX  
**Subject:** Re: Grant paying date

Hi Stephie,

May I inform you that our situation with our main funder has been considerably eased. They now accept that it was unfair practice to ask us to carryout improvement tasks without allowing the resources that would permit compliance. The Wirral CCG have reinstated our funding.

To add to the information I submitted yesterday, The improvements to be made are common to all 3rd sector organisations in contract situations with statutory services. We have agreed to an action plan of requirements but naturally, we required the agreed funding to enable the continuance of our employees jobs to carry this out.

There has never been any suggestion that we are unsafe or that our safeguarding was not practically sufficient and we continue to provide for survivors of childhood sexual abuse.

Please could you inform me asap of the outcome of my declaration to you with regard to these matters. Our agreement and subsequent invoice for the funding due, is from the 1st October 2015.

Best regards

*Keith*

Keith Le Poidevin  
 Chief Executive Officer

The Lantern Project Community Interest Company  
 Supporting Survivors of Sexual Abuse

168 Seabank Road, Wallasey, Wirral, CH45 1HG  
 Phone: 0151 630 6956 - Mobile:07799 110281  
<http://lanternproject.org.uk>

Company Number : 8100778  
 Registered Charity: 1097265

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**From:** OPCCN Grants <[OPCCNGrants@norfolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:OPCCNGrants@norfolk.pnn.police.uk)>  
**To:** 'The Lantern Project' <[lanternproject@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lanternproject@yahoo.co.uk)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 October 2015, 15:31  
**Subject:** RE: Grant paying date

[Dear Mr Le Poidevin,](#)

Many thanks for your email, if you would be kind enough to leave this information with me, I will raise with our team here. As soon as I have information, I will reply to your questions.

Many thanks

Kind regards

Stephie

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**Stephanie Stearman**

**Funding and Commissioning Officer**

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk

Building 8 - 1st Floor

Falconers Chase

Wymondham,

NR18 0WW

Tel: 01953 424457 Fax: 01953 424462

web: [www.norfolk-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.norfolk-pcc.gov.uk)

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**From:** The Lantern Project [<mailto:lanternproject@yahoo.co.uk>]

**Sent:** 01 October 2015 15:24

**To:** OPCCN Grants <[OPCCNGrants@norfolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:OPCCNGrants@norfolk.pnn.police.uk)>

**Subject:** Re: Grant paying date

Dear Stephanie,

I have just submitted by post, our third invoice of £20,000 under the current agreed arrangements. I would like to declare some information that has recently changed our circumstances.

I would like you to evaluate the information and reply with your decision.

Our main funder is Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group, who for almost four years now have funded the therapy we provide to survivors of childhood sexual abuse. Motivated by a Whistleblowing report, they have asked for information, which I have provided. Their decision was not to uphold most of the allegations against us but have subsequently imposed some very stringent and unachievable improvement measures on us in the areas of safeguarding and confidentiality.

They are imposing measures designed for a statutory NHS setting to a small charity without applying a balanced and achievable regime. In fact, it is so unreasonable that they have withdrawn our funding resulting in the loss of all of our ten staff posts and the very resources we would use in attempting to comply. In addition, they have stated that they will write to you to inform you that we are under their suspension.

The funding granted under the arrangements between ourselves will be the only funding that will keep this charity open for survivors.

My questions are as follows:

1. Will you continue to honour your agreement with us and provide us with the £20,000 outstanding.
2. Can you release us from the grant conditions to allow us to use the money to pay key members who will keep this charity from having to close, rather than the one extra Counsellor and one Administrator.

I look forward to your reply

*Keith*

**Keith Le Poidevin**

Chief Executive Officer

The Lantern Project Community Interest Company  
Supporting Survivors of Sexual Abuse

168 Seabank Road, Wallasey, Wirral, CH45 1HG

Phone: 0151 630 6956 - Mobile: 07799 110281

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**From:** OPCCN Grants <[OPCCNGrants@norfolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:OPCCNGrants@norfolk.pnn.police.uk)>

**To:** 'The Lantern Project' <[lanternproject@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lanternproject@yahoo.co.uk)>; OPCCN Grants <[OPCCNGrants@norfolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:OPCCNGrants@norfolk.pnn.police.uk)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 28 May 2015, 8:19

**Subject:** RE: Grant paying date

[Hi Keith](#)

Stephie is currently on annual leave but I have picked up your email. I have checked with the Constabulary's Finance Department and they have confirmed there was a payment of £25,088.00 paid to you on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015 which should have been in your account around the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015. This was paid for 2 invoices, 1 for £20,000 and one for £5088.00. The BACS reference is 1000430 and would have appeared on your statement as OPCCN – General.

I hope this helps but if you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

C/

=====  
**Claire Buckley**

Senior Business Support Officer

(also P.A. to John Hummerson - Chief Finance Officer)

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk

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**From:** The Lantern Project [<mailto:lanternproject@yahoo.co.uk>]

**Sent:** 27 May 2015 13:21

**To:** OPCCN Grants

**Subject:** Re: Grant paying date

Hi Stephe,

Please can I ask if you have paid the money out with regard to The Lantern Project fund 1 agreement

Many thanks

*Keith*

Keith Le Poidevin  
Chief Executive Officer

The Lantern Project Community Interest Company  
Supporting Survivors of Sexual Abuse  
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Phone: 0151 630 6956 - Mobile: 07799 110281  
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**From:** OPCCN Grants <[OPCCNGrants@norfolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:OPCCNGrants@norfolk.pnn.police.uk)>  
**To:** 'The Lantern Project' <[lanternproject@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lanternproject@yahoo.co.uk)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 16 April 2015, 10:32  
**Subject:** RE: Grant paying date

Zach

I am hopeful first 'batch' of agreements will go out within the next few working days and then continue, Fund 1 will go out first.

Once we have received signed agreements of acceptance of the award/terms and conditions along with an invoice for the agreed amount from applicants, it will then be processed this end. Payments can be turned round fairly swiftly. I would aim early May, anything earlier would be a bonus.

Hope that helps.

Stephie

<b>Stephanie Stearman</b>
<b>Business Liaison Co-Ordinator</b>
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk
Building 8 - 1st Floor
Falconers Chase
Wymondham,
NR18 0WW
Tel: 01953 424457 Fax: 01953 424462
web: <a href="http://www.norfolk-pcc.gov.uk">www.norfolk-pcc.gov.uk</a>

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**From:** The Lantern Project [<mailto:lanternproject@yahoo.co.uk>]  
**Sent:** 16 April 2015 09:02  
**To:** OPCCN Grants  
**Subject:** Grant paying date

Hi Stephe, hope you're well.

Once the agreements have been sent out and completed, do you have a rough estimate of when the monies would be being paid out into accounts, whether it would be during April, or into May?

Let me know your thoughts.

Thanks for your time and kind regards,

*Zach*

Zachary Wilmer  
Development Director

The Lantern Project Community Interest Company  
Supporting Survivors of Sexual Abuse  
168 Seabank Road, Wallasey, Wirral, CH45 1HG  
Phone: 0151 630 6956  
<http://lanternproject.org.uk>

Company Number : 8100778  
Registered Charity: 1097265

**From:** [Thompson, Gavin](#)  
**To:** ["chris.harris@tiaa.co.uk"](mailto:chris.harris@tiaa.co.uk)  
**Cc:** [Stearman, Stephanie](#); [Barsby, Martin](#)  
**Subject:** Audit of the Lantern Project  
**Date:** 15 December 2015 14:14:46  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)

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Hi Chris. Following your conversation with John Hummersone, here are the details of the audit we require for The Lantern Project.

The Lantern Project - 168 Seabank Rd, Wallasey, New Brighton CH45 1HG.

We would like to test...

- Their financial viability – including the financial management of the Charity and the CIC (which both have the same name) to ensure management is compliant with relevant charity and social enterprise law
- their safeguarding policy and procedures
- that DBS checks are in place for all staff
- the qualifications of staff to deliver support to victims of child abuse
- their British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy over the last two years, including levels of membership, continuity of membership and compliance with membership criteria
- membership of any professional bodies and networks and compliance with membership criteria
- for evidence of validation of the Unstructured Therapeutic Disclosure approach that they use

Is this enough, or do you require more detail.

Once you have allocated a resource and identified a date, please let me know and we will exchange the relevant contact details.

Best wishes.

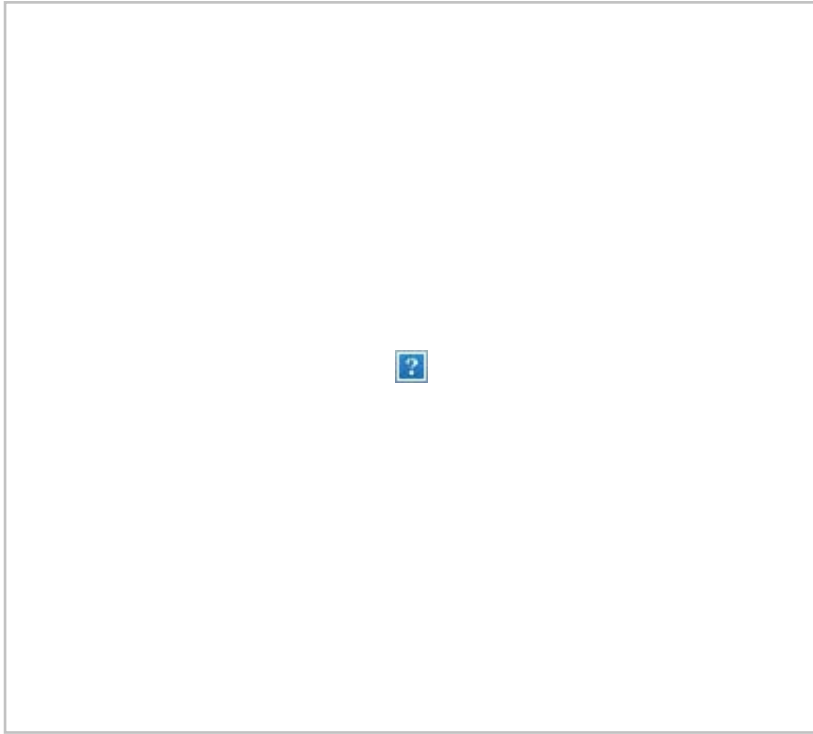
Gavin.

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**Dr Gavin Thompson**

Senior Policy and Commissioning Officer  
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk

t: 01953 425681 f: 01953 424462 | | w: [www.norfolk-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.norfolk-pcc.gov.uk)



**From:** [OPCCN Grants](#)  
**To:** [Thompson, Gavin](#)  
**Subject:** FW: The Lantern Project  
**Date:** 21 August 2017 15:03:34

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*Kind regards*

*Stephie*

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**Stephanie Stearman**

Funding and Commissioning Officer  
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk  
Building 8 - 1st Floor  
Falconers Chase  
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**From:** The Lantern Project [<mailto:lanternproject@yahoo.co.uk>]  
**Sent:** 30 December 2015 13:43  
**To:** OPCCN Grants  
**Cc:** XXXXXXXXXXXX  
**Subject:** The Lantern Project

Dear Stephie,

You may be aware that when we submitted the original bid to the OPCCN, that we requested substantially more funding than we were awarded. This was because we were aware that our CCG could withdraw funding at any time therefore severely compromising our operation.

The funding we were awarded by the OPCCN was only sufficient to support the services we were operating and not to sustain them altogether.

As a result of Wirral CCG withdrawing funding totally from 1.1.16, we are unable to provide services beyond 31.12.15 and have had to close. This means that we are not in a position to make a case for the final 10K, for period Jan 16 - March 16, which was subject to the audit you proposed.

I would be grateful if you could cancel the arrangements you made with your chosen auditor.

Best regards

*Keith*

**Keith Le Poidevin**  
Chief Executive Officer

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