I am writing on behalf of Chris Daniels to respond to your information request:

Details on the amount of money spent hiring celebrities. They may have been hired to present awards, record video/audio clips, turn on Christmas lights, visit a local school or for any other purpose. Going back to May 6, 2010, please state: 1) Which celebrity was hired to make an appearance 2) What they were hired to do 3) When they were hired 4) How much they were paid 5) Were they given anything in lieu of payment – eg night in a hotel, cab fares etc 6) In some instances a celebrity may have asked the money be paid to charity. If you have a record of this, please say I would like this FOI to capture any celebrities turning on Christmas lights this year. By the time you are obliged to reply to this FOI it will be early December and I am sure you will have held a switch-on event. If you have hired a celebrity, please provide details of this. In some instances the council may have given another body – eg the local chamber of commerce – money to hire the celebrity. Please include these within your response – the key thing is this is funded by the local authority. In our modern age, the definition of “celebrity” is open to many different interpretations. For the purpose of this FOI, a celebrity is not the local mayor. It is the local MP, it is anyone who has appeared on reality television, it is the local radio presenter and it is a well-known author (eg JK Rowling and not a self-published novelist). I hope that guidance assists.

I have been advised that RBWM did not incur any expenditure related to celebrities. Michael Parkinson & Timmy Mallett provided their time without payment.

Switching on Windsor’s lights is being undertaken by the Theatre Royal Panto – no fees are being paid.

If you are unhappy with the information we have provided in response to your request please write to:

Information Management Team Manager
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead
Town Hall, St Ives Road
Maidenhead
SL6 1RF

or send an e-mail to martin.tubbs@rbwm.gov.uk

We are proud to be one of the leading authorities in England for consistently responding to information requests within the 20 working days set down by statute. Information about our performance and summaries of requests received can be found on our website:

http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/foi_information_requests.htm

We are keen to hear about your experience with the Information Management Team here at the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and look forward
to receiving any comments you have about the way your information request was processed.

Please send any feedback to the Information Management Team Manager either by e-mail martin.tubbs@rbwm.gov.uk or in writing to the address above.

Yours sincerely

Chris Daniels
Information Management Officer
Legal Department
Corporate Directorate
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead
Town Hall, Strives Road
Maidenhead SL6 1RF

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Information Management Feedback Form
FOI65619

1) How would you rate our performance in relation to processing your request:
   Excellent     Good     Fair     Poor

If you have answered Fair or Poor please suggest how we can improve:

2) Did you receive the response to your request within the advised timescale? Yes/No
3) Did the response meet your needs? Yes/No
   If No, why was that?

4) Prior to submitting your request did you search RBWM’s website? Yes/No
If Yes, why did you then need to submit a request (Highlight all that apply)?

- Information required not found
- Information found out of date
- Information not in required format
- Information insufficient to meet need
- Other please specify:

If No, why was that?

5) Please add any further comments that would help us improve our service:

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form – your feedback is appreciated.