

Reference: EIR-3041

Request:

Regarding the "We're Making a Difference" Posters. Please supply the following information:

1. What was the cost of the 12,000 tree (saplings) planted by the Council as per the latest advert?
2. What the cost, labour etc. of planting these saplings?
3. Were saplings purchased from an arboriculturist supplier or were they grown in a Council facility?

Response:

1. This part of the request is refused under Regulation 12(4)(a) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. The reason for this is the Authority does not hold this information as the costs associated solely with the planting of these trees cannot be separated from the overall planting and maintenance costs.
2. This part of the request is refused under Regulation 12(4)(a) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. The reason for this is the Authority does not hold this information.

Since 2021, 12,329 whips (saplings) and 372 standard (mature) trees have been planted by a mix of volunteers, contractors and the Authority's arborists.

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As some of the labour is from core budgets and some was provided by volunteers the full cost of planting cannot be identified.

However, all the identifiable costs of tree planting activity for these trees has been funded solely by external grants, primarily through the government's £12million Nature for Climate fund.

As of February 2024, North Tyneside Council has identified and re-claimed £165,394 of government funding for planting labour, ground preparation, project design, replanting costs, weed suppression, ongoing maintenance, and the trees themselves.

3. The trees and associated sundries were supplied by established commercial nurseries that support Plant Healthy criteria.