

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

28 FEBRUARY 2012

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLOR

QUESTION FROM CLLR JON HUBBARD, MELKSHAM SOUTH DIVISION

TO COUNCILLOR JANE SCOTT
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Question 1

In the light of public and ministerial concerns that the practice of paying public sector workers through private companies “may be rife across local government” (Financial times), can she give a public reassurance that this practice has not been used by Wiltshire Council since its establishment in 2009? If it has been used, how many people listed as Council staff have been paid in this way?

Response

The council employs staff via external agencies to carry out temporary and interim roles, and this is not unusual in an organisation of this size. The council also employs consultants to carry out work that requires specific specialist knowledge and skills that are not available within the existing workforce.

A majority of consultants are employed via external agencies but in a small number of cases there are some self employed staff who work for the council in a consultancy capacity. In all cases these staff are procured via a robust business case process which considers the rationale for needing a consultant and value for money.

In all cases these staff have no access to sick pay, paid annual leave or the local government pension scheme.