Request:

The Council held a closed session meeting on 13th May where payment of the ARF by instalments was discussed. A vote was held and declared as a majority in the minutes published on the GDC website. I request the results of the vote mentioned above. Total number of votes cast, total for payment by instalments, total against payment by instalments and total number (if any) abstentions?

Whilst it is unlikely the GDC will share this further request, I will make it anyhow. Can the GDC supply me with how the Council members voted?

Response:

I write further to my email of the 4 June 2020 acknowledging your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (‘the FOI Act’) relating to a Council session on 13 May.

In your webform of 3 June 2020 you noted that the published minutes of the Council meeting referred to a majority decision in relation to the payment by instalments of the GDC’s annual retention fee. You asked to receive the results of the vote and in particular; ‘the total number of votes cast, total for payment by instalments, total against payment by instalments and total number (if any) abstentions.’ You also asked how each Council member had voted.

Firstly, it might be helpful if I explain that Council decisions are not taken by a vote. Instead, Council members discuss the issues, put forward their views, before coming to a final collective decision.

Turning to your request, we can confirm that as Council members do not vote on the matters they discuss, we do not hold a record of any votes cast in 1 May Council meeting.

Although the published minutes refer to a ‘majority’ decision, this was intended to reflect the balance of the discussion that was held during the meeting. We are sorry for any confusion caused by this choice of words.