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Trust paid £1 for share of new stadium

By [Martin Herron](#)

DONCASTER Council's partner in the company which runs the new Keepmoat Stadium paid just £1 to join forces with them.

The Dearne Valley Leisure Trust is the partner in the stadium and its company secretary John Sherburn revealed the information in a letter to fans' organisation StadiumWatch.

The letter states: "At the time of formation of the Limited Liability Partnership the trust made a nominal contribution to capital of £1. By law all limited liability partnerships must have a minimum of two members. The trust has not made and will not be making any other contribution at all to the capital of the limited liability partnership."

The relationship between the trust and Doncaster Council with regard to the Keepmoat Stadium is currently under investigation by the Charities Commission watchdog.

In his letter Mr Sherburn adds that the DVLTL is not liable for any debts or liabilities incurred by the Lakeside Stadium Partnership.

The trust will receive an annual fee of £3,000 to £5,000 in the first year as a member of the limited liability partnership. It will receive no other money from the partnership. In the event that the trust opts out of the partnership they are only entitled to £1. The DVLTL received grants worth £190,240 from Doncaster Council in the year ending March 2006 and £269,570 the previous year.

"Basically the DVLTL have paid just £1 into the partnership, which StadiumWatch considers a simple ruse thought up by Doncaster Council's lawyers to try and put the LLP beyond the reach of the Freedom of Information Act" said StadiumWatch spokesman Nigel Wroe.

On February 5 Ian Spowart, chairman of the board of the Lakeside Sports Complex, wrote to Mr Wroe explaining: "We assume that you realise that the LLP is a separate legal entity in its own right and that much of the legislation that applies to local authorities, does not apply to the LLP."

Peter Dale, the council's strategic director for development, said: "All management arrangements for the new sports complex were subject to detailed external legal advice and the council's Overview and Scrutiny process. If the Charity Commission wishes to review these arrangements we will cooperate fully."

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