Response to Request for Information

Reference  FOI 003735
Date       28 June 2019

Allotments

Request:

Please could you kindly advise:

How large is your current waiting list for each allotment in your jurisdiction?

In response to your above question, Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at:

- Section 1(1)(a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held.
- The second duty at Section 1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held.

In respect of your above question, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold the above information as self-managed allotment sites will hold the information on file themselves and manage the process for vacant plots. On Council Managed Sites enquiries will go to Allotment Site Secretaries who will directly liaise with the persons wanting an allotment plot (if vacant). Historically this has always been the practice in letting vacant plots if there are any available.

Currently there is not a system in place to manage waiting lists, as managing lists would increase the time spent the council spends on managing allotments. Allotment Site Secretaries management of the process of vacant plots on Self-Managed and Council Management allotments, also reduces the officer time spent on the liaison/letting process.

Consequently, we are unable to provide any information relating to the above, and are informing you as required by Section 1(1)(a) of the Act, that states:

"Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request".