

Response to Request for Information

Reference EIR 000207
Date 05 February 2018

Ash dieback (Chalara)

Request:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information ('council' refers to your authority):

- 1) What assessment has the council made of the potential impact of ash dieback (Chalara) in the authority area and what strategy does it have to cope?
- 2) How many mature ash trees are close to roads for which the council is responsible or public areas in the council's control where those trees have the potential to impact on public safety if they become infected, whether in the council's ownership or privately owned?
- 3) How many of those trees are on council-owned land, and how many of those are 'street trees' in residential areas.
- 4) How many of those trees are on non-council-owned land?
- 5) What is the estimated cost to the council of felling and/or otherwise dealing with all trees in question 2 and over what timescale is that cost estimated?
- 6) How much of that cost does the council expect to recover from third parties?
- 7) How many trees has the council committed to plant specifically to replace trees lost to Chalara?

In response to your request, we are treating this as a request made under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR), as opposed to a Freedom of Information Act, as this refers to matters that are to do with, or have an impact on, the environment. Please find our response marked in blue below:

We can confirm that we do not hold any data regarding the numbers of Authority or Privately owned Fraxinus (Ash) near to the highway.

At present, there is no strategy regarding the risk of Chalara fraxinea; if the disease does become more prevalent, this will be reviewed and appropriate resources secured to manage any issues regarding Chalara fraxinea.

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

To date there has been no confirmed reports of *Chalara fraxinea* in the City of Wolverhampton and until there is a change in the health of the city's *Fraxinus* population we are unable to establish the cost implications to the Authority.