

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 002729
Date 5 September 2018

Compliance Statistics

Request:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from you:

- 1: How many FOI requests were received during each of the years between 2000 and 2018. For half years, or years not completed (2000 and 2018) I would ask for statistics for the number of days that the data is held.

In respect of question 1, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold all of the above information as our retention period for Freedom of Information requests is six years.

Consequently, we are unable to provide some of the 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".

Therefore, please find below information that we hold which we hope will be of assistance.

Year	Nos.
2010-2011	770
2011-2012	902
2012-2013	803
2013-2014	1,201
2014-2015	1,245
2015-2016	1,155
2016-2017	1,086
2017-2018	1,144

With reference to the information we have supplied above, please note that the numbers provided are for FOI and EIR requests. In order to supply you with numbers just relating to FOIs your request for this information has been considered and the City of Wolverhampton Council is not obliged to supply the information you requested for the reasons set out below.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires City of Wolverhampton Council, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states the fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies:

In relation to your particular request, the following exemption applies:

Section 12 - Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

We can confirm that the Council holds information falling within the description specified in your request. However, Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows a public authority to refuse a request if the cost of providing the information to the applicant would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information.

The Regulations provide that the appropriate limit to be applied to requests received by local authorities is £450 (equivalent to 18 hours of work). In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

- (a) *Determining whether it holds the information,*
 - (b) *Locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
 - (c) *Retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
- and*
- (d) *Extracting the information from a document containing it.*

For the purposes of the estimate the costs of performing these activities should be estimated at a rate of £25 per hour.

The information appertaining to your request is not easily accessible and as such this information is not held as a distinct set able to be retrieved or reported on. To gather the information would require a full scale look into all individual records. This would be a manual exercise and as such we believe that the aggregated time it would take to collate the information would be in excess of 18 hours (equivalent to a notional cost of £450).

- 2: For each of the years, how many requests were successful and how many were unsuccessful - meaning that the information was not held, given or cost of compliance resulted in the data not being published, for example.
With reference to question 2 above, your request for information has now been considered and the City of Wolverhampton Council is not obliged to supply the information you requested for the reasons set out below.

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- (d) *Extracting the information from a document containing it.*

For the purposes of the estimate the costs of performing these activities should be estimated at a rate of £25 per hour.

The information appertaining to your request is not easily accessible and as such this information is not held as a distinct set able to be retrieved or reported on. To get the information would require a full scale look into all individual records as we currently do not record the reasons for FOIs that were unsuccessful and to provide this information would be a manual exercise and as such we believe that the aggregated time it would take to collate the

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information would be in excess of 18 hours (equivalent to a notional cost of £450).

Excess cost removes the City of Wolverhampton Council's obligation under the Freedom of Information, however under Section 16 – (the duty to provide advice and assistance, the Council may be able to provide answers to the request, should you wish to submit a refined request.