



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 0215135
Date 23 February 2015

Data Sold

Request:

1.
Has the council sold data it holds on individuals to any non-council organisations in the past five years?

2.
If the answer is yes, please give details of the following:

a)
Which firms or organisations was the data sold to?

b)
How much money was paid by those firms or organisations for the data?

c)
What was the nature of the data - (ie. did it include individual names, addresses, emails, landline telephone numbers, mobile telephone numbers, ages, information on income, information on financial history?)

d)
How many individuals did the data relate to?

e)
In what form was the data held - ie. A database, a list, hard copy or soft copy?

3.

Do you hold any record of your council selling data to any of the following organisations?

If so - and if not already covered above - please specify when the data was sold, how many individuals it related to and the price paid by the company for the data.

I refer to your request under the Freedom of Information Act regarding the Register of Electors. The registration of electors is governed by the Representation of the People Act 1983 as amended. Under Section 8 of the Act, the council must appoint an officer of the council to be the registration officer for any constituency or part of a

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

constituency coterminous with or situated in the council's area. Wolverhampton City Council has appointed an Electoral Registration Officer for the registration area of Wolverhampton. The appointment as Electoral Registration Officer is separate to any other appointment with Wolverhampton City Council and, although appointed by the council, the Electoral Registration Officer's responsibilities and duties are personal. An example of this is that the register of electors is deemed to be the property of the Electoral Registration Officer, not the local authority.

The Electoral Registration Officer does not carry out the duties on behalf of the local authority but in his own personal capacity. A list of public bodies and local authorities that are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act is available at the following website:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/schedule/1>

As you will see, the Freedom of Information Act does not list any person appointed under the Representation of the People Act 1983. It follows that the Electoral Registration Officer, Returning Officer or any other person appointed under the Act are not subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

Details of persons and organisations that are entitled to receive free copies or to be sold copies of the register of electors are governed by Regulations 97 – 114 of the Representation of the People Regulations 2001, as amended.

With reference to question 3, can you please let me have the names of the organisations you are referring to in order for me to respond.