

## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 111552  
Date            10 November 2015

### ***Pest Control***

**Request:**

The number of applications to the council for pest control in each postcode area (e.g. L1, M20) that you cover during the calendar years 2013, 2014 and 2015 to date (November 10, or whichever date is closest).

Please break this down by postcode area and type(s) of pest.

Following careful consideration, the Council regrets to inform you that it has decided not to disclose this information.

Information you have requested has been withheld from disclosure. The exemption engaged is Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

Section 12 of the FOI exempts Public Authorities from providing information where the estimated cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. Any estimate must be undertaken in accordance with the limits set in fees regulations made under Section 12 (5) of the FOI.

These Fees Regulations (SI 2004/3244 Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations) allow for a refusal where the cost of compliance, for local authorities such as the Council, would exceed £450. As a guide, staff time to identify and extract this information is charged at a rate of £25 per hour.

In summary to provide the information you have requested it would take us at least three days (21 hours) to compile as we do not record pest treatments against post code and would have to carry out a manual trawl through 10,000 work sheets or manually access each record.

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*

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

*(d) extracting the information from a document containing it”.*