

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

You asked:

Please advise me what means the Council will use to demonstrate commissioners are fulfilling their new legal duty (under the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012) which requires "public authorities to have regard to economic, social and environmental well-being in connection with public services contracts".

ANSWER:

The questions above do not appear to fall under a request for information under the Freedom of Information. Freedom of Information is providing information held. However, the Council can respond to the questions asked as follows.

In general terms the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires the Council to consider at the pre-procurement stage of any public services contract (to which the Act applies) (i) how what is proposed to be procured may improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the relevant area and (ii) how the contracting authority may act with a view to securing that improvement in conducting the process of procurement.

As to the means by which the Council may do this, this will depend upon the nature of the service to be commissioned, and is likely to be at the conceptual and design stage.

2. What specific evidence you will require from voluntary agencies supporting vulnerable people to provide in order to satisfy your need to evidence this?

3. For example, will voluntary organisations be requested to provide evidence that equates to a monetary value, as can be done through a Social Return on Investment evaluations? If not, what other means will you look for?

This will depend upon the nature of the service to be commissioned, it is not possible to give generic examples because the social value in the commissioning of say waste collection services will be different to a commission of say social support services. Stakeholders (including providers and users) will be informed, as to what the Council requires in order to fulfil the duty under the Act on a commission by commission basis. This may involve active engagement at the pre-procurement stages (this last phrase is explained in the Act). The Act applies to the pre-procurement stages of commissioning, so does not affect existing contracts.

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If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

Information Governance Manager
Information and Customer Access
Leicester City Council
FREEPOST (LE985/33)
New Walk Centre
LEICESTER LE1 6ZG

e-mail: info.requests@leicester.gov.uk

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700

www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider appeals or complaints until the internal appeals and complaints processes of the public authority which is answering the request have been exhausted. You are therefore advised to complain or appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.