

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:

For the financial years 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 what was the total value of public services contracts* which your council awarded to voluntary sector organisations? (*please exclude grants). Please give me a separate answer for each of these three years;

- **For the financial years 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12, what proportion of your council's overall resource expenditure was spent on public services contracts* awarded to voluntary sector organisations? (*please exclude grants). Please give me a separate answer for each of these three years;**
- **For the financial years 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 what is the total number of voluntary sector organisations to which your council awarded public services contracts*? (*please exclude grants). Please give me a separate answer for each of these three years.**

ANSWER:

This request will cover over 22,000 contracts in place. There are no criteria on our system that gives the opportunity to note whether these are voluntary organisations. We would need to manually go into each file to find this information. Even if it only took 5 minutes per file it would take over 1833 hours.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for local government is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending more than 18 hours in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

We estimate it will take 1833 hours to process your request. This is calculated on 22,000 files with 5 minutes per file.

This is therefore a Refusal Notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act, because under the provisions of section 12.1 of the Act, the Council estimates that to comply with your request in its current form will exceed the appropriate limit.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain, including any dates or period of time relevant to the information required. We do have a duty to advise and assist you in refining your request under s16 of the Act so please don't hesitate to contact us if you need help in refining your request.

The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use. Please be aware that any commercial or other use, for example publication, sale, or redistribution may be a breach of copyright under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 as amended unless you obtain the copyright holder's prior permission.

Not all the information that is supplied which is covered by copyright will be the Council's copyright, for example it may be the copyright of a government department or another Council. You should seek either the Council's consent or their consent as appropriate. The Council is willing to advise you of any such potential issues on request. In order to make a request to re-use the information please contact the Information Governance Manager using the details below.

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.