

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:

Aylestone Community Meeting Thursday, 14 March 2013.

Please can you provide a copy of the draft minutes from the above Meeting.

Please could you also provide a copy of any notes taken during the meeting, handwritten or otherwise, by any of the councillors and any of the staff. A transcript by email will be fine, or scanned PDFs. (As recorded information, such notes are subject to the Freedom of Information Act.)

ANSWER:

Please find attached official notes from the minute taker of the meeting. These have some personal details taken out, which Leicester City Council would do for the typed up minutes to be published online. We are withholding that information since we consider that to be an absolute exemption under section 40(2) (personal data), and this therefore constitutes a refusal under section 17 of the Freedom of information Act 2000.

After undertaking a Public Interest Test it was decided the handwritten notes of Mr Carey could be released but the notes taken by other officers (in this case Mr Sandhu) would not be released and are therefore exempt from disclosure under S36. Mr Sandhu was not at the meeting in the capacity as minute-taker. His (much briefer) notes were taken for his personal benefit to be retained by him or destroyed by him. They were made in a style that suited his particular purposes and their disclosure would not benefit the public interest. More likely they would add confusion. Additionally, if the notes of every officer who attended any meeting became generally dis-closable under FOIA, then no meeting could proceed to discuss things in a free and frank manner. The public interest is not therefore met by disclosure of these notes. The release of Mr Carey's handwritten notes were deemed, on this occasion, to meet the public interests test because there was a dispute over the content of the minute and the notes promoted clarity and confidence to the official typed notes subsequently produced.

The Council does not possess the notes of other officers or Councillors who may have attended that meeting.

For your information this letter constitutes a refusal notice under Section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because an exemption under Section 36 of the Act is being applied as release could,

- Inhibit the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation; or

- [Otherwise prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs.](#)

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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.