

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:

I would like a list of all the credit card payments made by councillors since the beginning of 2012. I would like to know what was paid for, how much was spent, when it was spent and who made the transaction.

Councillors do not have a Leicester City Council credit card. The Council does not hold this information. Therefore this letter acts as a refusal notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because, in accordance with section 1.1 of the Act, this information is not held by Leicester City Council.

I would also like to know what other forms of surveillance are used by the council excluding CCTV cameras. I would like to know what device is used, where it is used, why it is used and how much it costs a year to operate.

Leicester City Council is a large unitary council. Many service areas will use some type of surveillance. To gather information on devices, where it is used, why it is used and how much it costs per year, for the entire council would take over the 18 hours limit. My colleague did contact you and ask you to redefine your request, explaining that we are a large council and that narrowing down your request to a service area or a type of surveillance would help us to answer your request, and that failure to do so could lead to this request being over the time limit.

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.

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.

We do publish a list of RIPA authorisations by year on our website. RIPA is used when covert cameras are required with regards to a serious crime and are now signed off by a magistrate. If you follow the below link you will see the details.

<http://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council-services/council-and-democracy/data-protection-and-foi/regulation-of-investigatory-powers/>

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 21 of the Act is being applied, namely the information is accessible by other means, the Council Website, as it is already in the public domain.

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 Support
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.