

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:

Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide me with full answers to each of the following questions:

Clarification received 10/10/13 - Just the main councillor meetings.

1. Does your council still hold prayers at the start of meetings?

ANSWER:

Where a Lord Mayor wishes, it is the practice at Leicester City Council for the Lord Mayor's spiritual adviser to offer a prayer prior to the formal start of meetings of the Full Council. This is not a requirement, and not all Lord Mayor's ask their spiritual advisers to give a prayer.

2. If the answer is no, when was the practice ended?

Not applicable

3. If the answer is no, for what reason was the practice ended?

Not applicable

4. If the answer is yes, has the wording of the prayers been changed? If so, please give the old and new versions, and state when the change was made.

Not applicable as there is no set wording.

5. If the answer is yes, when are the prayers said ie before the meeting begins or after it has been called to order?

Where a prayer is given members are advised on the agenda papers as follows:

"Note: The Lord Mayor has indicated that he will invite his spiritual advisor to say an appropriate prayer. There is of course no obligation on Members to join in but silence is requested during the prayer. As not part of the formal summons, if any Member wishes to absent himself/herself for the prayer, this will not be regarded as an absence from the formal Council meeting."

On such occasions, the following wording will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting:

"Before the meeting formally commenced the Lord Mayor invited his Spiritual Adviser to say an appropriate prayer."

6. Please state if your council has received any complaints about prayers in the past three years.

No complaints have been received. A query regarding the council's practice was received in April 2012.

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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: FOIA@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.