FOIA 20432 - Urban Planning

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| 1. How many planning applications have you received? | 5268 |
| 1. How many planning applications have you validated? | 4915 |
| 1. How many valid developments are not permitted?    * + - 1. Refused          2. Determined          3. Withdrawn          4. Other          5. Not determined yet | 391  3390  422  416  296 |
| 1. How many valid applications do you request more information from? | \*This information cannot be reliably collated as it is not recorded on the database. |
| 1. On average how long does it take you to process each application? (From validation to determination) 2. Refused 3. Determined 4. Withdrawn 5. Other 6. **Overall** | 15-16 weeks  10-11 weeks  12-13 weeks  4-5 weeks  **11-12 weeks** |
| 1. How many applications are initially rejected but then receive approval after a plan is changed or more information is given? | \*This information is not readily available |
| 1. Do you have a breakdown of the different types of applications you ~~receive~~ (validated)? | See table below |

| **Development Type** | **Applications** |
| --- | --- |
| Minerals and waste | 5 |
| Largescale Major - Dwellings | 17 |
| Largescale Major - Offices / R&D / Light Industry | 2 |
| Largescale Major - General Industry/Storage/Warehousing | 1 |
| Largescale Major - All other Largescale Major | 4 |
| Smallscale Major - Dwellings | 69 |
| Smallscale Major - Offices / R&D / Light Industry | 3 |
| Smallscale Major - General Industry/Storage/Warehousing | 5 |
| Smallscale Major - Retail | 7 |
| Smallscale Major - All other Smallscale Major | 33 |
| Minor - Dwellings | 237 |
| Minor - Offices / R&D / Light Industry | 42 |
| Minor - General Industry / Storage / Warehousing | 23 |
| Minor - Retail | 145 |
| Minor - All other Minor | 288 |
| Other - Change of Use | 529 |
| Other - Householder | 1547 |
| Other - Advertisements | 287 |
| Other - Listed Building Consent to Alter/Extend | 102 |
| Other - Listed Building Consent to Demolish | 2 |
| Other - Certificates of Lawful Development | 125 |
| Others\* | 830 |
| Prior Approval | 612 |
| Total | 4915 |
| \* Others:  CON - Discharging Conditions  NMC - Non-Material Change to Planning Permission  TPO - Works to protected trees  TRE - Notification of works to trees in conservation areas |  |
|  |  |
| [See here for definitions](https://opendatacommunities.org/slice?dataset=http%3A%2F%2Fopendatacommunities.org%2Fdata%2Fplanning%2Fdecisions%2Fmajor-and-minor-development-type%2Fall&http%3A%2F%2Fopendatacommunities.org%2Fdef%2Fontology%2Fplanning%2Fdecisions%2Fmajor-and-minor-development-type%2Fall=http%3A%2F%2Fopendatacommunities.org%2Fdef%2Fconcept%2Fplanning%2Fdecisions%2Fmajor-and-minor-development-type%2Fall%2FmajorDecisionsNumberGranted) |  |

\*The Council has duly determined that to comply with your request in its current form will exceed the appropriate limit.

Leicester City Council do not record this information in a reportable format; the requested information would be recorded on an individual case file and would require the manual trawl of file and this exercise would exceed the cost limit.

Section 12 of the FOIA 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 FOIA because an exemption under Section 12(1) of the Act (over the cost limit) is being applied.

The Council also judges that the following exception to disclosure is also applicable under the EIR. Regulation 12(4)(b) provides that a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that the request for information is manifestly unreasonable and Leicester City Council consider that this exception applies in this case.

While under the EIR there is no appropriate cost limit above which authorities are not required to deal with requests for information, the ICO’s guidance on regulation 12(4)(b) states ‘In assessing whether the cost, or the amount of staff time involved in responding to a request, is sufficient to render a request manifestly unreasonable the FOIA fees regulations may be a useful starting point’.

It is estimated that the time it would take to locate, retrieve and extract the information requested would considerably exceed the appropriate limit for a FOIA request of £450 or 18 hours of staff time.

Therefore, Leicester City Council considers that the exception contained in Regulation 12(4)(b) of the EIR is engaged.