FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000/ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REGULATIONS 2004

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council’s response to your questions is shown below.

You asked:

I am writing to you today regarding my imminent concern of the recent lockdown announcement that has been imposed on the Leicestershire area.

I have been tracking figures and data from government sources that are area specific to Leicester and condemn the way Leicester is being portrayed in the media and news as a coronavirus hotspot due to its high percentage of ethnically diverse citizens. When you actually compare data from Leicester to other cities, as a whole we actually do not have such a high percentage of cases and deaths respective to our population size.

In addition to this, I do not understand how large scale BLM protests and riots were able to take place in larger cities such as London, Birmingham and Manchester, not to mention a number of illegal raves and parties where 100’s and sometimes 1000’s attended. Leicester has now large tourist hotspots such as Bournemouth beach where people flocked to in huge numbers, yet somehow the government has initiated a local lockdown on Leicester, scaremongering the general population of the city and making them feel at greater fault in comparison to the rest of the country. Again, the way this has been portrayed in the media is due to the ethnicity of the citizens?

For the 100’s of small enterprising businesses that make up the golden thread of what makes Leicester so great, it is going to be a difficult and confusing time. We were allowed to all open for a couple of weeks, only to be locked down once again! The excuse of safety for the wider population is becoming less and less apparent to myself and my community of British Asian people in Leicester. We have been looking at data, we know what other cities in England are also as ethnically diverse, for example, Birmingham, Bolton, Manchester, Preston,

Bradford, Leeds etc. In most cases, they have on the surface a much larger case/death count per 1000 people. So my question is, why Leicester? Whilst the rest of the country eases off, and is allowed to progress economically, Leicester is being put in an unfair spotlight.

As a member of the public, I request for this information to be shared so that it can be clearly informed to the wider community. As part of the Freedom of information Act 2000, I would like this information to be provided in a timely manner, as the public have many unanswered questions and are fairly disappointed at the governments decision and the councils lack of support for its citizens during this difficult time.

In response, please find attached a copy of the Public Health England report, entitled “Overview and recommended actions following a preliminary investigation into COVID-19 exceedances in Leicester (June 2020)” produced on 28 June 2020 and received by the City Mayor’s Office on 29 June 2020.

A small amount of information has been redacted (removed) under the provisions of the exemption to disclosure (a lawful reason under the Act to withhold information) contained at Section 40 (2)-Personal Information as it is the personal data of individuals, processed for the purposes of creation of the report and its disclosure to the wider world would constitute a breach of Data protection Principles, namely the First & Second Principles-Lawful, Fair & Transparent processing and Processing for a Specified, Explicit & Legitimate purpose respectively.

You may re-use the information under an Open Government Licence.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, please write to:

Internal Review

Information Governance & Risk Leicester City Council

City Hall, 115 Charles Street Leicester LE1 1FZ

info.requests@leicester.gov.uk

**Enclosures:** Public Health England report: “Overview and recommended actions following a preliminary investigation into COVID-19 exceedances in Leicester (June 2020)”, 28 June 2020