

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
C O U N C I L

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 000302
Date 22 July 2016

Age of Voters

Request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please can you provide me with the age distribution of those who have registered to vote between December 2015 and May 2016 in your Local Authority.

Following careful consideration, the Council regrets to inform you that it has decided not to disclose this information.

Information you have requested has been withheld from disclosure. The exemption engaged is Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

Section 12 of the FOI exempts Public Authorities from providing information where the estimated cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. Any estimate must be undertaken in accordance with the limits set in fees regulations made under Section 12 (5) of the FOI.

These Fees Regulations (SI 2004/3244 Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations) allow for a refusal where the cost of compliance, for local authorities such as the Council, would exceed £450. As a guide, staff time to identify and extract this information is charged at a rate of £25 per hour.

In summary to provide the information you have requested it would take us longer than 18 hours to compile as age information cannot be automatically extracted from the system (because age is not a searchable factor in regards to registration) and therefore we would have to manually check 6,000 new records on the register which would take 3 minutes per file (see calculation below):

Number of Files of Files	Minutes for Each File	Total Minutes	Total Hours	Cost
6,000	3	18,000	300	£7,500

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

However, under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI) we can advise you that the Cabinet Office, which oversees the online registration system, may be of assistance to you. Although not everybody applied on line, a significant proportion went through that route and the Cabinet Office may be able to extract a report about ages. Please find below link:

<https://www.gov.uk/transformation/exemplars/register-to-vote>