

CITY OF  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
COUNCIL

## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 001017  
Date            29 March 2017

### ***Seizure of Food***

**Request:**

I am interested in any food that has been either formally seized by your authority or voluntarily surrendered by a food business within your area since Jan 2015. I would be grateful if you could supply me with the following information.

No of formal seizures of food (i.e. where a court formally condemned food)

No. of voluntary surrenders (where a food business agreed to voluntarily dispose of food)

No. of unsuccessful seizures (where the court refused to condemn)

For each seizure or surrender please provide the following:-

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Description of what was seized/surrendered	Quantity	Was it seized or voluntarily surrendered?	Reason for seizing/surrendering (If a food was certified as not produced, processed or distributed in accordance with the Hygiene Regulations please detail why it was certified and more detail than just unfit/unsafe)	Were the foods subject to any examination/analysis by a food examiner or public analyst? If so please provide details and results	From whom were the goods seized?

Your request for information has now been considered. Unfortunately City of Wolverhampton Council cannot supply the information you requested for the reasons set out below. Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires City of Wolverhampton Council, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states the fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies:

In relation to your particular request, the following exemption applies:

**Section 12 - Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit**

We can confirm that the Council holds information falling within the description specified in your request. However, Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows a public authority to refuse a request if the cost of providing the information to the applicant would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information.

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

The Regulations provide that the appropriate limit to be applied to requests received by local authorities is £450 (equivalent to 18 hours of work). In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

- (a) Determining whether it holds the information,*
- (b) Locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
- (c) Retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
- and*
- (d) Extracting the information from a document containing it.*

*For the purposes of the estimate the costs of performing these activities should be estimated at a rate of £25 per hour.*

We have undertaken zero formal seizures of food. However information regarding voluntary closures is not easily accessible and as such this information is not held as a distinct set able to be retrieved or reported on. To get the information would require a full scale review of each inspection within the specified period. This would be a manual exercise as 1127 interventions have been completed/rated since January 2015. Some interventions require more than one inspection/visit to complete and as such we believe that the aggregated time it would take to collate the information would be in excess of 18 hours (equivalent to a notional cost of £450).