



## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 001119  
Date            08 May 2017

### ***Risk Assessments – Molineux Stadium***

#### **Request:**

I wish to make a request(s) under the freedom of information act.

1. Can you please provide details of recent and relevant **risk assessments** carried out by the City Council in respect of football supporters arriving and leaving events at Molineux stadium and the level of traffic in both Waterloo Road and Whitmore Hill, Wolverhampton.
2. Can you provide relevant copies of correspondence with Wolverhampton Wanderers regarding the risks arising through traffic arriving and leaving the South Bank and Whitmore Hill car parks directly before and after events.

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 38 of the Freedom of Information Act states that:

- (1) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to –
  - (a) Endanger the physical or mental health of any individual, or
  - (b) Endanger the safety of any individual

The Council considers that the information you have requested, which we have identified above, is exempt from disclosure under Section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 38 of the Act permits the Council to withhold information if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, endanger the health and safety of any individuals.

We should explain that, under Section 38 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Council considers that to disclose the information you have requested, at this stage, would be likely to endanger the health and safety of an individuals.

The Council believes that information which concerns Molineux Stadium and the surrounding area safety measures should be considered for exemption under section 38. The information you have requested concerns the safety measures undertaken by the Council and its partners and relates directly to the safety of the public, its staff and visitors to the stadium.

The Council believes that under the current climate providing details of the Council's risk assessments placed into the public domain could increase the potential vulnerability and treats of terrorism and as such potentially endanger the physical health and safety of any individuals attending events at Molineux Stadium. In this instance where Section 38 could be applied may include requests for information which could lead to locations or events being open to sabotage.

Therefore, due to the sensitive nature of this information and the impact that the release of such details into the public domain would have in terms of potentially compromising safety, the Council deems that the information should be withheld.

The Public Interest Test:

The Council is required to undertake the Public Interest Test, to weigh the harm that is identified against the wider public interest that may be served by disclosure; please see the details below.

The Council recognises that the release of such information would facilitate and promote transparency and would enable the public to have an increased understanding of the Council by bringing into the public domain information affecting public health and safety, and as a consequence the public would have an understanding of the safety mechanisms in place (and is therefore of benefit to the community). This in turn would generate confidence in the Council's safety measures to protect the public, staff and visitors to Molineux Stadium.

The Council however considers that releasing the information requested would have the potential to jeopardise the safety of anyone in or surrounding area of Molineux Stadium, as the information provides details relating to the risk assessment mechanisms in place. If this information were to be placed in the public domain, details would therefore be available that could make Molineux Stadium vulnerable to external threats. This in turn has the potential to endanger the safety of the public, staff and its visitors.

Therefore in conclusion, the Council can confirm that it has considered the arguments for both release and exemption, and has reached the decision that in this instance the potential risk posed to the public, staff and visitors to Molineux Stadium by the release of the information requested is greater than the public interest and benefit that would be served by releasing the information (as a result of the potential consequences that the release of the information may have), and as such the information is being withheld under section 38 of the Freedom of Information Act.