



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 001631
Date 30 October 2017

A41 Bilston Road Metro Works

Request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act can you please provide me with the following information about the A41 Bilston Road Metro Works:

1. All emails sent within the organisation or held on the servers about the topic since the 1st June 2017.
2. All emails and letters (within and sent out to other bodies or officials) specifically about a 'hardship fund'
3. All media briefings produced, Lines to Take documents and all Q&As produced by your media team about the topic.
4. The impact assessment of the project
5. Letters of complaint made to you about the scheme.

I understand that redactions need to be made for people's names in emails and commercial confidence.

Your request for information has now been considered and the City of Wolverhampton Council is not obliged to 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.

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.

The information appertaining to your request 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 look into all individual cross directorate email accounts to determine information. This would be a manual exercise 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).

Excess cost removes the City of Wolverhampton Council's obligation under the Freedom of Information, however the Council may be able to provide answers to the request, should you wish to submit a refined request specifying the exact information you are looking for.

Furthermore, under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act– (the duty to provide advice and assistance, we can confirm that the A41 Bilston Road Metro Works falls under the remit of West Midlands Combined Authority. For ease of reference I have provided their link below;

<https://www.wmca.org.uk/freedom-of-information>