



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 001654
Date 03 November 2017

Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems

Request:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from the Wolverhampton City Council Planning Department. I am looking for information on the following questions:

- How many Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) have been retrofitted to developments?
- How many developments have been delayed at least in part by SuDS considerations?
- How many developments have been turned down at least partially by SuDS considerations?
- How many times have you examined developers for non-compliance of SuDS?
- How many developments in the past 12 months have SUDS incorporated?

Please provide the information in the form of an Excel document.

In response to your request, we have established that the Council does not hold the above information as a distinct set able to be retrieved or reported on. Thus we are unable to provide any information relating to the above, and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("The Act"), that states:

"Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request..."

This is because the Council is not required as part of its public task to record a specific list of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems.

To undertake this work would exceed the statutory cost limit under Section 12 of the Act.

Section 12 of the Act 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 Act.

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

To clarify further, any information regarding this would be held at individual file level and the Council have no way of collecting this information, other than to go through all the relevant planning applications to search each individual file.

We do not formally record the information requested in these three questions so are unable to collate. However to the best of our knowledge we consider the answer to all three questions is highly likely to be nil.

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.

To advise and assist you under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, we attach link to our planning portal site where you can view all planning applications submitted to the City of Wolverhampton Council:

<http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/planningapplications>