

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 001733
Date 24 November 2017

Parking Charge Notices

Request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to enquire the following information around the distribution of Parking Charge Notices.

I would like to request:

1. The number of Parking Charge Notices or Fixed Penalty Notices has issued over the last 3 financial years? Broken down by years. Can I have that broken down for both off and on street parking.

	On-Street	Off-Street
2016/2017	18785	5528
2015/2016	17710	4463
2014/2015	19780	3469

2. The total amount in £ taken in fines over the last three financial years? Broken down by years. Can I have that broken down for both off and on street parking?

	On-Street	Off-Street
2016/2017	£418,023	£93,118
2015/2016	£458,445	£89,896
2014/2015	£556,333	£82,998

3. The number of Parking Charge Notices or Fixed Penalty Notices that have:
 - a) been appealed
 - b) successfully appealed
 - c) unsuccessfully appealed and d) case open.Broken down by years?

In respect of questions 3 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 appeals and write-offs is not easily accessible and as such this information is not held as a distinct set able to be retrieved or reported on.

The information for cases that have been disputed is subject to several different actions to both respond and agree the final action and in order to establish the figures would require each individual case file to be reviewed to establish the final resolution. Similarly, there are several different reasons why a penalty charge may be written-off and again in order to establish the figures would require each individual case file to be reviewed to establish the final resolution. This would be a manual exercise looking at approximately 20429 case files 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).

As a result, we are refusing this part of your request under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

4. The 15 locations i.e. street or car park where Parking Charge Notices have been issued the most by the authority. Can I have the

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

- a) total amount of Parking Charge Notices or Fixed Penalty Notices issued
- b) total amount in £ taken in fines.

Can I have the accumulated total for the last three financial years?

	Location_Name	No. PCN's Issued (a)	Income (b)
1	Red Lion Street	2809	£59,848
2	Wulfruna Street	2619	£47,738
3	Fold Street Car Park	2567	£50,566
4	Waterloo Road	2436	£63,416
5	Temple Street Car Park	2374	£27,237
6	Thornley Street	2251	£44,433
7	Cleveland Street	2225	£39,633
8	Broad Street Car Park	2071	£38,399
9	North Street	1855	£44,496
10	Cheapside	1715	£38,845
11	Queen Street	1513	£34,312
12	Railway Street	1511	£32,476
13	Bell Street	1506	£30,553
14	Pinfold Street Car Park	1412	£30,836
15	Clarence Street	1361	£27,903
		Total Income (c)	£610,691