

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 001932
Date 06 February 2018

Public Health Funerals

Request:

I'm writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information:

1. How many public health funerals took place in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017?
2011/2012 = 42
2012/2013 = 34
2013/2014 = 39
2014/2015 = 38
2015/2016 = 47
2016/2017 = 30
2017/31 DEC = 22

2. How many were paid for by your authority, and how many by other means?
Your question 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.

As indicated in question 1, this is the number of Public Health Act Funerals that were arranged and paid for by City of Wolverhampton Council. However, part or full contributions towards these costs are recovered (Payments by other means), after the invoice has been paid by the LA. To get the information would require a full scale look into all individual records. 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).

3. How much has the council spent on public health funerals in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017?
2011/2012 = £47,523
2012/2013 = £45,319
2013/2014 = £44,432
2014/2015 = £46,430
2015/2016 = £57,602
2016/2017 = £37,489
2017/31 DEC = £26,075
(costs supplied are the gross cost to the Local Authority of Public Health Act Funerals. Income/part or full contributions to some of those funerals are recovered).
4. If known, how many were male and how many were female, broken down by year?
2011/2012 - 28M: 14F
2012/2013 - 20M: 14F
2013/2014 - 33M: 6F
2014/2015 - 30M: 8F
2015/2016 - 41M: 6F
2016/2017 - 24M: 6F
2017/31 DEC - 15M: 7F
5. How much was your a) cheapest and b) most expensive public health funeral?
Cheapest £947.00 Cremation 2011
Expensive £1,512.00 Burial 2017

6. How many under 18s and over 65s had a public health funeral in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017?

2011/2012 - Under 18 = 0, Over 65 = 19

2012/2013 - Under 18 = 0, Over 65 = 17

2013/2014 - Under 18 = 0, Over 65 = 19

2014/2015 - Under 18 = 0, Over 65 = 11

2015/2016 - Under 18 = 0, Over 65 = 25

2016/2017 - Under 18 = 0, Over 65 = 17

2017/31 DEC – Under 18 = 0, Over 65 = 13