



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 002399
Date 14 June 2018

Taxi Drivers

Request:

Please answer this FOI as fully as possible.

- 1 In total how many private hire and hackney carriage drivers were stopped by council officers in the last year?

Of this total:

- 2 How many were found to be illegally plying for hire?
- 3 How many had no proof of licence and no insurance?
- 4 How many had cars which were deemed unroadworthy?
- 5 How many were found to be drink/drug driving?
- 6 How many were found to be in possession of drugs? If you can say how many were Class As that would be useful.
- 7 Would you also be able to see how many of those stopped had a criminal record and bring up any details of previous convictions at all?
- 8 How many taxi drivers had their licences revoked or suspended in the last year?

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 as we do not record the details of every driver stopped. 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).