

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 002861
Date 12 October 2018

Public Space

Request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act can you provide me with the following information:

1. What is the total number of publicly accessible:
 - a) parks
 - b) village greens
 - c) community gardens
 - d) woodland
 - e) allotments
 - f) nature reservescurrently in your local authority area, and what was the figure in 2009/10?
[The information provided is for parks and open spaces only.](#)
 - [2009/10 – 95 publicly accessible parks and open spaces \(Leisure land\).](#)
 - [2017/18 – 100 publicly accessible parks and open spaces \(Leisure land\).](#)

2. What is the total number of publicly accessible:
 - a) parks
 - b) village greens
 - c) community gardens
 - d) woodland
 - e) allotments
 - f) nature reservesin your local authority area for which members of the public are charged to access (including spaces which only charge for access on particular days of the year or for certain events), and what was the corresponding figure for each in 2009/10?
 - [2009/10 – There were no charges in place to access public parks and open spaces \(Leisure land\) with the City of Wolverhampton including the one nature reserve location which sits outside the City Boundary.](#)

 - [2017/18 – There are no charges in place to access public open space \(Leisure land\) with the City of Wolverhampton including the one nature reserve location which sits outside the City Boundary.](#)

3. What is your local authority's total budget allocation for spend on:
- parks
 - village greens
 - community gardens
 - woodland
 - allotments
 - nature reserves

in your local authority area for 2017/18, and what was the total budget allocation for each in 2009/10?

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:

- states the fact,
- specifies the exemption in question and
- 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:

- Determining whether it holds the information,*
 - Locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
 - Retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
- and
- 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.

The maintenance cost for the sites and locations crosscuts across many service areas and budgets within the council. To get the information would require a manual trawl at all individual costs 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 under Section 16 – (the duty to provide advice and assistance, the Council may be able to provide answers to the request, should you wish to submit a refined request.

4. How many staff are employed by your local authority to maintain or manage:

- a) parks
- b) village greens
- c) community gardens
- d) woodland
- e) allotments
- f) nature reserves

in your local authority area in the year 2017/18, and how many were employed for each in 2009/10?

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.

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- (a) states the fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies:

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estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

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 - (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 explain further, the number of staff employed to manage and maintain above locations work across many service areas due to being multi-skilled at different tasks and therefore this information is not broken down. To get the information would require a manual trawl at all staffing across the service areas 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 under Section 16 – (the duty to provide advice and assistance, the Council may be able to provide answers to the request, should you wish to submit a refined request.

5. What is the total number of publicly accessible:
- a) parks
 - b) village greens
 - c) community gardens
 - d) woodland
 - e) allotments
 - f) nature reserves
- in your local authority area which have limited opening hours, and what was the figure in 2009/10?
- 2009/10 – 6 sites as mentioned above
 - 2017/18 – 6 sites as mentioned above
6. What is the current total area in km² of publicly accessible:
- a) parks
 - b) village greens
 - c) community gardens
 - d) woodland
 - e) allotments
 - f) nature reserves

currently in your local authority area, and what was it in 2009/10?

- 2009/10 – 6 square kilometres as detailed in a), d) and f) only
- 2017/18 – 6.1 square kilometres

7. What was the total number of publicly accessible:

- a) parks
- b) village greens
- c) community gardens
- d) woodland
- e) allotments
- f) nature reserves

currently in your local authority area for which the management or services are provided by an outside organisation rather than the local authority, and what was the corresponding figure for each in 2009/10?

[Information is only available for self-managed allotment sites.](#)

- 2009/10 – 10 (self-managed allotment sites).
- 2017/18 – 12 (self-managed allotment sites).