

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 002992
Date 23 November 2018

Hackney Private Hire Badges

Request:

I would like to request some information under the freedom of information act from 01/01/2011 to 01/08/17.

I want to know how many people have been granted a hackney private hire badge with a conviction or convictions not being spent(on going).

And how many badges have been granted with the conviction of importing a marketable quantity of a class A drug.

With the crime, conviction and sentence been served in a foreign country NOT the U.K. and the time scale (i.e. how many years from the conviction or sentence) in which they have been granted a badge.

How many badges have been granted to people despite motoring offences and drug dealing offences and still be allowed the opportunity to hold their badges.

With reference to your above questions, 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. To get the information would require an individual trawl of more than 12,000 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 8,736 hours (equivalent to a notional cost of £221K).

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.