



## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 021683  
Date            15 February 2016

### *Freedom of Information Requests*

**Request:**

In accordance with The Freedom of Information Act 2000 I would like to kindly ask you to provide me with the following information:

1. Number of all freedom of information requests submitted to the Wolverhampton City Council in years 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015? If possible, I would be interested in their breakdown according to channels through which these were submitted by requesters (for instance, number of FOI requests submitted by WhatDoTheyKnow.com, regular e-mail, phone call, post, in person etc).
2. Number of freedom of information requests that were granted in full in years 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. Again, if possible, I would be interested in their breakdown according to channels through which these were submitted by requesters?
3. Number of freedom of information requests that were withheld in full in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. Again, if possible, I would be interested in their breakdown according to channels through which these were submitted by requesters?
4. Number of freedom of information requests that were granted in part in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. Again, if possible, I would be interested in their breakdown according to channels through which these were submitted by requesters?
5. What were the most commonly applied exemptions or exceptions to FOIA in these years?

In response to Question 1 please find the following information:

Last 5 Financial Years:

2010/11 = 770  
2011/12 = 902  
2012/13 = 803  
2013/14 = 1202  
2014/15 = 1202

In response to Question 2 please find the following information:

Last 5 Financial Years:

2010/11 = 547

2011/12 = 629

2012/13 = 468

2013/14 = 1068

2014/15 = 1139

In response to your request to the second part of question 1 and 2, questions 3, 4 and 5, we can confirm that following careful consideration, the Council regrets to inform you that it has decided not to disclose this information. Information you have requested has been withheld from disclosure. The exemption engaged is Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

To undertake this work would exceed the statutory cost limit under Section 12 of the Act.

Section 12 of the Act exempts Public Authorities from providing information where the estimated cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. Any estimate must be undertaken in accordance with the limits set in fees regulations made under Section 12 (5) of the Act.

These Fees Regulations (SI 2004/3244 Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations) allow for a refusal where the cost of compliance, for local authorities such as the Council, would exceed £450. As a guide, staff time to identify and extract this information is charged at a rate of £25 per hour.

In summary, we cannot easily gather this information via a report as it is not held. In order to determine the information you have requested, we would need to manually interrogate each request to verify information. This would be a manual exercise and as such we believe the aggregated time it would take to collate the information would be in excess of 18 hours (equivalent to a notional cost of £450).