

REQUEST	14164 - Facilities Management and Utilities spend	RESPONSE
	<p>I am compiling a register of all of England, Wales and Scotland's local authorities' data on their operational facilities management and utilities spend for the 2021 / 2022 financial year. This follows on from a similar exercise I undertook two years ago.</p> <p>I would be grateful if you could, as a request under the Freedom of Information Act, provide me with the data in the attached spreadsheet for your local authority. I appreciate that there will inevitably be some discrepancy between the way different authorities hold the data and that, in some cases, it may not be broken down into these categories (where integrated contracts have been purchased for example). However, if you could provide as much data as possible, I will manipulate it appropriately.</p> <p>Again, my aim is to produce a summary report for all of the UK's local authorities so that a meaningful benchmark can be produced to identify areas where authorities are efficient and areas where they aren't – and any obvious mitigating factors around these anomalies. Further, the repeat of this exercise from two years ago will also start to provide a trend analysis for each Council.</p> <p>If your team would be interested in receiving a free copy of the summary report, please indicated in the appropriate place on the attached spreadsheet.</p>	<p>Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 200 (FoIA) relieves a public authority from the obligation to comply with a request for information where the estimated time required to locate, review and extract the information exceeds a certain threshold set out in Regulations The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (Si 2004/3244) set out the rules in relation to the cost limit (otherwise called the "appropriate limit"), These Regulations are published by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) and are viewable on their website from this link : http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2004/uksi20043244_en.pdf</p> <p>The Regulations set out the cost limit for Government departments and for other public authorities. For Local Government, Regulation 3 states that the cost limit is £450 and Regulation 4(4) states that the prescribed hourly rate is £25. Regulation 4(4) further provides that where the local authority estimates the time taken to gather the information would exceed this limit (which based on the prescribed hourly rate, equates to 18 officer hours), it may refuse the request under Section 12 of the FoIA. I am satisfied the cost limit applies to your request and will explain why this is the case.</p> <p>We have calculated that for 40 buildings it would take approx 30 minutes to get most but not all of the information. This equates to 20 hours which is more than the 18 hours that is deemed as an appropriate/reasonable time to respond.</p>