

## Request

I would like to know the top five streets in the borough with the most reported potholes in 2022. Could I have the number of potholes reported to the council by residents on these streets for the whole of 2022 please.

## Response

I write in response to your request for environmental information regarding the top five streets in the borough with the most reported potholes in 2022.

Under the Environmental Information Regulations (2004) Wigan Council has a duty to supply any information on request, unless there is an exception that applies. It is our policy to only apply the exemptions where there is a genuine belief of risk of harm or prejudice occurring.

In these cases, we will still provide information; where possible, if it is in the public interest to do so.

In this instance, we believe that it is not in the public interest to disclose the information requested and apply the following exemption:

Regulation 12(5)(b) Disclosure would adversely affect: (b) The course of justice, the ability of any person to receive a fair trial or the ability of the Authority to receive a fair trial.

Listing the top five streets for pothole reports would alert the public to the fact that those streets may be in poor condition. If this information were to be released into the public domain then it could be used by members of the public to submit fraudulent claims against Wigan Council, adversely affecting the Council's ability to receive a fair trial.

Although there is a public interest in being open and transparent, especially when it comes to matters of public safety, public authorities have a duty to tackle fraud and ensure best value for taxpayers. Wigan Council believes that the need protect public finances from fraudulent activity outweighs any benefits that may be gained from disclosing the information. Therefore, on balance the Council does not consider that it is in the public interest to disclose the information.