

REQUEST	15629	RESPONSE
	<p>This is an information request relating to celebrities turning on Christmas lights.</p> <p>Please include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The amount spent by the council on celebrities to turn on Christmas lights in 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. • The name of any celebrity who turned on Christmas lights for the council in 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. 	<p>The following acts were part of the Christmas Lights offer:</p> <p>2020 – Lancashire Hotpots</p> <p>2021 – Edele from Bwitched / Katy Ashworth</p> <p>2022 – Gareth Gates / Rak-su</p> <p>2023 – Katy Ashworth / Abz / Paul Bennett</p> <p>For 2020 - This information is exempt from disclosure under s43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. It is standard operating practice in the entertainment industry that this information is not shared and the Council's commercial interests would be harmed if we did disclose as we would not be able to book acts for the future as they would not want to work with us. As s43 is a qualified exemption, we are required to undertake a public interest test. Whilst we recognise the presumption of disclosure in the FOI Act 2000 and are committed to transparency and accountability in the use of Council Taxpayers' money, we have to be able to enter into commercial arrangements where these bring benefits to the Council and its residents (such as in this case where a high profile act will attract a large audience) without breaching the industry expectation of confidentiality.</p> <p>For 2021-2023 the information is not held. The acts are booked as part of an overall package and the individual price or percentage of money that was allocated towards the acts have not been disclosed to Wigan Council".</p>