



REQUEST	17370
<p>How much money (in £ sterling) per year Wigan Council has spent on tea bags, coffee, milk (including alternative milk such as soy milk), sugar, sweetener, and biscuits - from 2014 to 2024.</p> <p>Please present this information in a table. The columns should break expenditure down by the type of item (tea bags / coffee / milk / alternative milks / sugar / sweetener / biscuits), and each row should represent a calendar year (January 2014-December 2014 / January 2015-December 2015 etc.)</p>	
<p>RESPONSE</p> <p>We do not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (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.</p> <p>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 web site from this link: http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2004/uksi_20043244_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 FoIA.</p> <p>I am satisfied the cost limit applies to your request and will explain why this is the case:</p> <p>As these products do not have a product code and are not invoiced separately, the information cannot be easily obtained from our IT financial system. Individual invoices would have to be examined for over the 10 year period and this would take between 1 to 2 weeks to complete by one member of staff, significantly over 18 hours.</p>	