

Request

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information. Specifically, I would like to request:

- 1) The total number of domestic/residential visits (excluding commercial premises) to address the following types of infestations in the last three years (2021, 2022, 2023):

Rodents (rats/mice)
Bedbugs
Cockroaches

- 2) The total amount spent on pest control service visits to address the following types of infestations in the last three years (2021, 2022, 2023):

Rodents (rats/mice)
Bedbugs
Cockroaches

- 3) Please state how much you charge for the below treatments for a domestic property (or if it is free), for householders that do not qualify for a discount:

Rodents (rats/mice)
Bedbugs
Cockroaches

Response

- 1) See table below

	2021	2022	2023
Rats Inside	2187	1980	2059
Rats Outside	2154	1625	1274
Mice	3195	2735	2778
Bedbugs	67	28	85
Cockroaches	76	128	83

- 2) 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.

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

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.

I am satisfied the cost limit applies to your request and will explain why this is the case.

There are 4 full time officers who deal with all pest types and poisons are ordered in bulk for all pest types. Amount of poison used is on a case by case basis, depending on the level of infestation, and records are kept on individual cases. Each case would have to be looked at to gather the amount/level of poison used on each job, which would be over 20000 records. Taking just one minute per record would equate to approximately 330 hours – far in excess of the 18 officer hours stipulated in the Freedom of Information Act.

- 3) Rodents (rats/mice) = £56.00
Bedbugs (2 officers) = £115.00
Cockroaches = £88.00