

Request

Please could you provide - for - September, October, November, December 2023 and January and February 2024

- 1) Number of potholes reported by month
- 2) Number of potholes filled by month
- 3) Cost of filling potholes by month
- 4) How many compensation claims made for potholes by month Total cost of these claims, by month
- 5) How cost of pay outs, by month
- 6) What road / pothole had the most individual claims? And how many?
- 7) What road / pothole incurred the highest value of claims in terms of total cost? And how much?
- 8) What was the largest individual claim financially - where, when and how much and what for?
- 9) How much was spent defending claims?

Response

- 1) September – 105
October – 162
November – 237
December - 314
January - 680
February - 928
- 2) September – 205
October – 194
November – 241
December - 304
January - 403
February - 529
- 3) We do not hold this information
- 4) September – 5 claims received
October – 5 claims received
November – 2 claims received
December - 8 claims received
January – 31 claims received
February - 51 claims received
- 5) September – No Payments made
October – No Payments made
November – £201.60
December - £264.00
January - £1803.95
February -£1638.18

- 6) Location is not being provided under Section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA). This states that the information is exempt from disclosure if disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

This exemption has been applied because the Council believes it makes it possible for fraudulent claims for compensation as a result of highway defects to be made. A disclosure under the FoIA is assumed to be to the world at large and some of the details that would be required to make a claim for damage could be obtained from the information that has been requested.

The Public Interest Test to this request has been applied. Whilst I consider it is in the public interest for Councils to be transparent about their affairs and for information to be disclosed as far as possible, I do not believe it is in the public interest to put the Council's funds (from the taxpayer) at risk of fraud. In addition, the time taken by officers of the Council to investigate any claims would be an unwelcome burden on public funds. The public interest in preventing fraud and protecting the public purse outweighs the public interest in transparency

- 7) As response to Q6

- 8) The largest individual claim for period requested is £848,745.

Location withheld – again see response at Q6

- 9) In-house Council Insurance team is employed to defend claims.