



Wigan
Council

REQUEST 18065

Last year the government wrote to all councils to ask them to carry out checks of all funeral homes in their area. I understand that it was largely environmental health teams who carried out this work.

Please can you tell me:

- if the council has completed these checks
- where any concerns about specific funeral homes were identified please provide a summary of the concern and the name of the business

RESPONSE

All 57 funeral homes within the borough were inspected.

We do not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

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.

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.

It has taken 21 minutes to retrieve the documents for the first funeral home listed alphabetically. This included the time required to open each relevant file, read and review each document that would provide the information requested. This would equate to at least 19.95 hours to review the documents, this does not include recording a summary of information requested.