



Wigan[♥]
Council

Request

I would like all communications that have ever taken place on relation to the local authority deciding not to adopt the Taylor Wimpey estate and the reasons for why this decision was made.

I want to have information as to what legislation and criteria was used to make this a lawful decision and what where the reasons why it didn't meet the local authority criteria for being adopted. Taylor Wimpey have not gone bankrupt so what elements of the development does not meet your criteria for adopting?

Emails, minutes meetings between local authority employees and Taylor Wimpey, any search of Emails that have Rothwell Gardens as title or Taylor Wimpey. Any Emails from the lead specified point of contact between Local authority and Taylor Wimpey in relation to the development at Rothwell Gardens.

Response

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

Regulation 12(4)(b) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allows a public authority to refuse to disclose information to the extent that the request for information is manifestly unreasonable.

The Taylor Wimpey development at Rothwell Farm has been ongoing since 2014, following the issuing of the Section 220 agreement. In order to respond to a request for all communications relating to this development, the Council would need to review and extract records spanning over a decade.

Based on a conservative estimate of approximately 3 hours of officer time per year, this equates to around 33 hours in total. This would place a significant and disproportionate burden on the Council's resources, particularly given the volume of other statutory duties and service demands.

Public Interest Test

Under Regulation 12(1)(b), the Council must apply a public interest test when relying on an exception. In this case, the Council recognises the public interest in transparency and accountability regarding planning and development matters, particularly those affecting local communities and the environment.

However, this must be balanced against the public interest in ensuring that public authorities can carry out their core functions effectively and efficiently. Requiring officers to divert substantial time and resources to locate and extract the requested information would adversely impact service delivery and the Council's ability to meet other statutory obligations.

On balance, the Council considers that the public interest in maintaining the exception outweighs the public interest in disclosure. Therefore, the request is considered manifestly unreasonable under Regulation 12(4)(b).

Nevertheless, the Council remains committed to working collaboratively with Taylor Wimpey to progress the adoption of the development.