



Request

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from the Council's Finance (Accounts Payable) department.

Scope of Request

Please provide invoice payment data for all suppliers for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2025, covering all supplier invoices that were processed and paid during this timeframe.

I am aware that, in accordance with the Local Government Transparency Code, the Council publishes certain expenditure data on its website. However, this published data is generally limited to individual transactions of £500 or more and does not include smaller payments, as well as some of the fields requested here, such as both the invoice date and the date the invoice was paid.

Response

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

In order for us to provide the information requested (in its current form) would entail a manual investigation/checking of approximately 200,000 transactions (this is just those transactions that are below £500).

Under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, we have a duty to provide advice and assistance to help you refine your request so that it may fall within the cost limit. If you are able to revise your request for a shorter time period (perhaps 3 to 4 months) we would be happy to reconsider it.