



REQUEST 18652

1. Can you tell me the council's position on the emergence of St George's flags on lamp-posts, roundabouts and elsewhere via non-official origins in the past few months?
2. By conducting a keywords search of the authority's email server, please tell me how many emails appear, separately, for each of the months of May, June, July and August 2025 when searching for the term 'English flag' or 'George's flag'.
3. By conducting a similar search for any occurrence of the terms 'English flag' or 'George's flag' (use the search term **'English flag' OR 'St George's flag'**) please can you provide for me an output of the contents of email exchanges on your server, redacted to ensure no personal information is included, starting with the most recent and going back as far as you can within the time and cost limits specified in the FOI Act - and not extending before 1st July 2025.
- *If possible* within the cost limits of the act after fulfilling the above questions, can you please also provide the contents of any minutes or discussions where the emergence of these flags on streets and roundabouts was discussed?

RESPONSE

1. The Council published a statement on its website on 3rd September 2025 - [Wigan Council Position on Flags](#)
2.

May	2
June	0
July	0
August	9
3. There are only two email exchanges falling within the scope of this question.
 - a. An internal email exchange dated 29th August 2025 is being withheld under s31(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as its disclosure under this Act (i.e. into the public domain) would be likely to prejudice the apprehension or prosecution of offenders. This exemption is subject to a public interest test. The Council recognises the inherent presumption of disclosure in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the need for transparency and accountability in its work. However, this email exchange concerns a possible criminal offence and disclosing the exchange into the public domain would be likely to harm the chance of a successful prosecution on the one hand and risk the fairness of any conviction for the alleged offender. On balance, the public interest favours withholding this email exchange.
 - b. An internal email exchange dated 27th August 2025 is enclosed. It has been redacted to remove personal data of more junior officers.

The Council does not hold any minutes relating to this issue. Discussions are not recorded.

[REDACTED]

From: Fol Request <foirequest@wigan.gov.uk>
Sent: 27 August 2025 15:29
To: Downham, Lucy
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI 18529 (Flags)
Attachments: 18529.docx

Dear Lucy

Please see attached request for information and Janet advising you may be able to help with regard to the English flag (cross of St George).

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: Davies, Janet (Solicitors) <Janet.Davies@wigan.gov.uk>
Sent: 27 August 2025 11:54
To: Fol Request <foirequest@wigan.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: FOI 18529 (Flags)

PR (lucy Downham) may know

Janet Davies
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From: Fol Request <foirequest@wigan.gov.uk>
Sent: 27 August 2025 10:53

To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Davies, Janet (Solicitors) <Janet.Davies@wigan.gov.uk>
Subject: FOI 18529 (Flags)

Dear [REDACTED] / Janet

**Sending in first instance to yourselves as not entirely sure who would get this kind of request (andy advice appreciated).*

We have received the attached request for information. Please complete and return the attached form to foirequest@wigan.gov.uk

We would appreciate it if you could send the information back to us in the enclosed Word document by: 15th September 2025, but if this will not be possible, can you please let us know and we will keep the requestor informed.

As we know you will be busy with the “day job”, if we have not heard from you in ten days, we will send you a courtesy reminder and then a more formal reminder if we have not received the response by the above deadline date.

If you have problems meeting the deadline, if you require clarification, or if the request (or any part of it) should be directed to a different service please let us know as soon as you can. Thanks.

FOI information and guidance - <http://thehub/OurCouncil/Policies-and-documents/Freedom-of-information/index.aspx>

More information and guidance on exemptions can be found on the ICO website at http://ico.org.uk/for_organisations/freedom_of_information/guide

Should you have any comments on the form and/or any ideas for ways in which we can improve our service please do not hesitate to let us know.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]
Information Governance Assistant
Legal, Governance and Elections Division
[REDACTED]

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