



**REQUEST      19079**

Please provide a breakdown of costs incurred by the Council in relation to Planning Appeals for each financial year from **2010/11** to the current date in **2025**.

Specifically, I request the data be provided in a table format containing the following two categories:

1. The total amount spent by the Council on legal fees, external consultants, and administrative costs for defending planning appeals.

**RESPONSE**

- 1.

2022/23 = £42,191 excluding VAT.

2023/24 = £0

2024/25 = £0

**To note:** The figures provided relate solely to external expenditure, such as legal advice, representation, and specialist consultants. They do not include internal costs, which are substantial. In particular, officer time spent preparing and managing appeals represents the largest element of the Council's resource commitment in this area, but these costs have not been quantified. Similarly, the use of Council facilities for hearings and inquiries, often the most technologically equipped rooms available to meet the requirements of such proceedings, and any necessary printing has not been costed for the purposes of this response.

Prior to the above dates the Council does not hold this information in a readily reportable format. Retrieving it would require manual interrogation of historic case files and financial records. We estimate this would exceed 18 hours of officer time, surpassing the £450 cost limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. Accordingly, under Section 12 of the Act, we are not obliged to comply with this part of your request.

2. The total number of planning appeals defended by the Council (if an appeal crosses a financial year please include it in the same year as the costs were paid).

2. All planning appeals lodged within the Borough over the last 10 years are available to view on PINS' website (**Case Search**); search using Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council in the Local Planning Authority Field at the above link.

Alternatively, the information the Council holds on this request is accessible via the Council's website at the following link. Please utilise the search function available on this webpage accordingly:

[Search and comment on planning applications](#)

Support and guidance on how to search the information the Council holds on this section of its website is available on the above webpage, but is also provided in the accompanying 'Public Access User Guide' PDF document and via the link to the relevant page on the Council's website below:

[Idox PA for Planning User Guide](#)

3. The total amount paid out to appellants (third parties) following a decision by the Planning Inspectorate that the Council acted "unreasonably" (Awards of Costs).

3.

2022/23 = £0

2023/24 = £0

2024/25 = £0

Prior to the above dates the Council does not hold this information in a readily reportable format. Retrieving it, if it exists, would require manual interrogation of historic case files and financial records. We estimate this would exceed 18 hours of officer time, surpassing the £450 cost limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. Accordingly, under Section 12 of the Act, we are not obliged to comply with this part of your request.

4. The total number of instances where costs were paid out to appellants (third parties) following a decision by the Planning Inspectorate that the Council acted "unreasonably" (Awards of Costs).

4. All planning appeals lodged within the Borough over the last 10 years are available to view on PINS' website **(Case Search)**; search using Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council in the Local Planning Authority Field at the above link.

Alternatively, the information the Council holds on this request is accessible via the Council's website at the following link. Please utilise the search function available on this webpage accordingly:

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Where applicable, this information, will also contain all costs awards decisions for the Authority.