



## **REQUEST 19373**

Please provide the following information for the period 1 January 2000 to the present (or the earliest date your digital records allow):

1. Planning applications submitted by the Peel Group and all its subsidiaries. For the purposes of this request, "Peel Group" includes (but is not limited to): - Peel Holdings - Peel L&P - Peel Investments (North) Ltd - Peel Land and Property (various regional entities) - Harworth Estates (if historically linked in your records) - Any other company where Peel Group is listed as applicant, agent, landowner, or controlling interest Please provide:
  - a) Total number of planning applications submitted
  - b) Number approved
  - c) Number refused
  - d) Number withdrawn
  - e) Number approved on appeal
  - f) Number refused on appeal
  - g) Number still pending or undetermined
2. For each application Please provide a spreadsheet or table including:
  - Application reference number
  - Site address
  - Date submitted
  - Applicant name
  - Agent name (if applicable)
  - Decision (approved/refused/withdrawn)
  - Decision date
  - Appeal reference (if applicable)
  - Appeal outcome - Appeal decision date
3. Identification of subsidiaries If your system records the applicant under a subsidiary or holding company, please include all entities where Peel Group is:
  - the applicant
  - the landowner
  - the developer
  - the controlling interest - or otherwise identified in the application documentation

*If you require a list of known Peel subsidiaries for matching, please let me know and I will supply one.*

## **RESPONSE**

As your request relates to planning applications and development activity, the information you are seeking is classified as *environmental information* for the purposes of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). We have therefore considered your request under the EIR rather than the Freedom of Information Act.

Planning application records within the Borough from 2003 onwards are available to view on the Council's online planning register. 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](#)

In respect of pre-2003 planning records for the Borough, whilst some earlier applications have been digitised and are available online, this is not comprehensive.

Prior to the introduction of the current electronic planning system, records were held across a range of formats including legacy electronic indexes, microfiche, archived paper files and historic datasets that are not searchable by applicant or landowner in a consistent or reliable way. The Council does not hold a single searchable source that would allow us to identify all applications connected to the Peel Group or its subsidiaries prior to 2003 for these records.

Retrieving the information requested for the pre-2003 period would therefore require an officer to manually interrogate multiple historic data sources and archived paper files, checking each file individually to determine whether it relates to Peel Group or any associated company. We estimate that undertaking this work would exceed the reasonable time and resources that the Council is required to allocate to a request under the Environmental Information Regulations.

For this reason, we are applying Regulation 12(4)(b) of the Environmental Information Regulations, which allows a public authority to refuse a request that is "*manifestly unreasonable*". The Information Commissioner's guidance confirms that this exemption may be applied where responding would place a burden on the authority that is disproportionate to the public interest in disclosure, including where an extensive manual search of historic records would be required.

We are satisfied that locating, identifying and extracting all relevant pre-2003 records would require a significant manual examination of historic files well beyond what the EIR reasonably require a public authority to undertake.

However, information from 2003 onwards remains available to you through the Council's online planning register, as noted above.