



**REQUEST 19539**

Please could you provide the following information;

- a. Any and all correspondence surrounding the decision to send a legal letter to the Astley Action Warehouse Group on 16th March 2026
- b. Any and all associated costs with serving a legal letter to the Astley Action Warehouse Group on 16th March 2026
- c. Any correspondence that lead to the decision to serve a legal letter to the Astley Action Warehouse Group, including complaints to HR or anything that may have influenced the decision
- d. The minutes of any meeting that discussed the sending of a legal letter to the Astley Action Warehouse Group in the time leading up to when it was sent on 16th March 2026

**RESPONSE**

- a. Any internal correspondence, drafting etc and information relating to that was conducted between the Council, its officers and Legal Services. The Council are not disclosing such information pursuant to Section 42 of the Freedom of information Act as such information is covered by legal professional privilege.
- b. Advice was supplied by the Council's Legal Services from within their budget and no identifiable costs exist.
- c. See response to a. Additionally, copies of correspondence or complaints that led to the decision are not disclosable under Section 31 of FOIA. This is because, given the nature of the correspondence, the Council believes that disclosure may prejudice the administration of justice. Recourse to legal action may be necessary or follow. The Council has considered whether it is in the public interest to disclose the information. The Council considers given the nature of the information disclosure to the public at large may impede or prejudice any investigation or legal proceedings. Further, the Council also relies on Section 40 of the act to withhold the information as correspondence (email etc) were directed at named individuals and therefore amounts to personal data. Some of the content also contains abusive language, which makes disclosure inappropriate and not in the public interest.
- d. See response to a.

- e. The names of the officers whose decision it was to send a legal letter to the Astley Action Warehouse Group on 16th March 2026
- f. Was the decision to send a legal letter made by any member of Wigan Council that worked on, or involved in the planning / approval process of the Astley warehouses.
- e. The decision was made by the Chief Executive in conjunction with the Assistant Director of Legal Services.
- f. No member involved in the decision of the planning committee that approved the planning application took part.