



Ref: EIR 1953

9<sup>th</sup> August 2018

Ms  
BBC News NI

Email: @bbc.co.uk

Dear Ms

**Re: EIR 1953 Unauthorised Car Washes**

I refer to your email correspondence dated 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018 requesting information on the above, and apologise for the delay in responding. Your request is being treated as a request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, due to the information being requested.

**Request:**

**I wish to receive information held by the council relating to the amount of time/money/resources that have been spent by the council on policing illegal car washes within the council area since 2015.**

**Response:**

Derry City and Strabane District Council does hold information in relation to your request. Since the transfer of planning powers on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015, four unauthorised car washes have been reported to Council and investigated by the Planning Enforcement section. Three cases have been concluded and one remains ongoing. I have set out the estimated time and resources for each case below, as the case processing time and the total estimated hours worked on the case by the individual planning officer responsible for the case.

Case 1 – Concluded in 5 weeks. Estimated hours - 8

Case 2 – Ongoing since September 2017 – Estimated hours to date - 16

Case 3 – Concluded in 6.1 weeks – Estimated hours - 8

Case 4 – Concluded in 37.1 weeks – Estimated Hours 16

The investigations above have incurred no other costs or financial implications other than planning officer time. If you wish to be provided with the hourly rate please advise by return and this will be provided in consultation with finance department.

I hope you are satisfied with this response. If you are dissatisfied with how the Council handled your request for information, you have the right to request that the Council formally review this decision. If you wish to do so, please write to John Kelpie, Town Clerk and Chief Executive, Derry City and Strabane District Council, 98 Strand Road, Derry, BT48 7NN.

Should you remain dissatisfied following the Council's internal review, you can seek an independent review from the Information Commission. Requests for an independent review should be made in writing to:

The Information Commissioner  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 5AF Email: [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

However, I would advise you that the Information Commissioner has indicated that a review will not be undertaken unless the Council has first had an opportunity to reconsider its decision.

If you have any queries in relation to this response, please contact me on the details given above.