

Derry City & Strabane

District Council

Comhairle **Chathair Dhoire &** Cheantar an tSratha Báin

Derry Cittie & Stràbane Destrick Cooncil

Ref: FOI / 1026

20 January 2017

Email: @gmail.com

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request All FOI requests Calendar year January 2016-2017

I refer to your FOI request as above. Please note that Derry City and Strabane District Council was formed under the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 effective 1 April 2015 following a Review of Public Administration and replaces the former councils of Derry City Council and Strabane District Council. Requests made to the legacy councils since 1 April 2015 are being handled by Derry City and Strabane District Council and duplicate requests made to the legacy councils are being treated as one request.

As you are aware, Section 12(1) of the FOIA contains a provision which allows a public authority to refuse to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed a set limit known as the appropriate limit. For local authorities, this limit is set at £450 - The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulation 2004 SI 2004 No 3244 refers. The information requested is in excess of 2000 pieces of correspondence which will require redaction of personal details of requestors and Council therefore estimates the time taken for the compilation of this data would exceed the set limit.

In addition, our publication scheme is due to be updated for the new financial year and a disclosure log will be part of that update. Council have therefore applied the exemption at Section 22, which states:

Section 22

- (1) Information is exempt information if—
- (a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not),
- (b) the information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made, and
- (c) it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph (a).

Section 22 is a qualified exemption. This means that, even if the requested information falls within it, Council must go on to consider whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption is greater than the public interest in disclosing the information. As the information is intended for near future publication Council are content that the public interest in maintaining the exemption at this time is valid.

Under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000" Council have a duty to advise and assist and I have therefore attached a log of all Freedom of Information and Environmental Information Regulation requests received 01/01/16 - 31/12/16.

If you are dissatisfied with our response you have rights of review and appeal; these rights consist of two review processes.

Firstly our internal review procedure is available by contacting:

John Kelpie Chief Executive Derry City and Strabane District Council 98 Strand Road Derry BT48 7NN Tel 028 71253253 or email john.kelpie@derrystrabane.com

Secondly, you can appeal directly by contacting the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow

CHESHIRE SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or email: casework@ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Lead Democratic Services and Improvement Officer

Enc