

Ref: FOI / 5952

14th August 2025

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request - The Prayers

I refer to your FOI request and respond as follows:

Request

I would like to make a Freedom of Information request.

On the website of the organisation 'The Prayers' (www.theprayers.co.uk), there is a scrolling list of council logos labelled 'Our Collaborators' (on the Privacy Policy page, it says 'Our Partners'), and one of them is for your council. It's not clear what the 'Collaborator' term means, or what the council's relationship with The Prayers is. It's possible that there is no relationship, and this request isn't based on an assumption that there is.

I am requesting a summary of information that explains the nature of your council's relationship with The Prayers. To be clear, I am asking for this under FOI so the summary should be based on recorded information held by the council, but I am not asking for 'all data' or large amounts of correspondence. I would be grateful if someone could extract the key facts about what the relationship is (if there is one) and send that to me.

For background, The Prayers present themselves as a not for profit organisation that says prayers for ill or dying people and are asking anyone viewing their website to give them personal data about people who are ill. I believe that if personal data is provided in this way, it is likely to have been obtained without transparency or consent.

I am aware that they have also sent FOI requests that seem aimed at finding people who have died without a will or whose property might be in dispute. I do not know how obtaining detailed records about people's estates can be reconciled with their ostensible position of offering support to ill or dying people. I am concerned about

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what this allegedly not-for-profit organisation is doing with the information it is obtaining.

If your council doesn't have a relationship with The Prayers, please let me emphasise that I haven't sent this request to you randomly. Your council's logo is on their website, so they are publicly claiming that you are one of their 'Collaborators' or 'Partners'.

Response

Council can confirm that it has no affiliation with this company.

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

I would however advise that the Information Commissioner has indicated that a review will not be undertaken unless the Council has first had an opportunity to re-consider its decision.

Yours sincerely

Damian McCay
Information & Customer Services Officer