



Coventry City Council

UNCLASSIFIED

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Executive Director, Place
Business Support
Floor 12, Civic Centre 4
Much Park Street
Coventry
CV1 2PY

www.coventry.gov.uk

Our reference FOI 20122718
21 May 2014

Please contact Bernie Robinson
Direct line 024 7683 1201
bernie.robinson@coventry.gov.uk

Dear

Thank you for requesting information about Council owned properties, which the Council received on 22 April 2014. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("The Act").

You have requested the following:

I would like information on the total space, in square metres, the councils currently rents from private landlords and other landlords and land owners. I am only interested in space rented for use by the council and not for the use of third parties, voluntary bodies etc. Could you also provide information on the total amount paid by the council in rent each year for all of these properties?

In relation to Council owned properties, the Council is a stock transfer authority and its Council housing stock was transferred to Whitefriars Housing in September 2000. The response to the questions below refers to commercial and industrial Council owned properties.

The Council currently rents from private landlords and other landlords and land owners a total of 5,495 square metres. The total annual rent paid is £331,706.00

I would also like information on the number of council-owned sites or buildings which are currently vacant and the total size of any such premises in square metres.

The Council currently has 120 vacant units/buildings.

The information you have requested in connection with the total size of the premises in square metres has been withheld from disclosure. The exemption engaged, is Section 12 of the Act, which exempts Public Authorities from providing information where the estimated cost of compliance with the request exceeds the appropriate limit. Any estimate must be

made in accordance with the limits set in fees regulations made under Section 12 (5) of the Act.

These regulations (Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations) allow for a refusal where the cost of compliance, for local authorities such as the Council, would exceed £450. As a guide, staff time to identify and extract this information is charged at a rate of £25 per hour. Please see the schedule below explaining how this was calculated. If the actual cost turns out to be less than the estimate, the balance will be returned to you.

In summary an officer would have to manually measure a site plan for each property to extract this information.

Since a substantial amount of work will be involved in processing your request as it is currently phrased, I am afraid a fee is payable before we can provide you with the information.

DISBURSEMENTS	CHARGE MADE
COST OF COMPLYING WITH THE REQUEST	To be charged at a rate of £25 per hour of officer time estimated to be spent identifying, retrieving and extracting requested information. Estimated to take a minimum of 18 hours of officer time
PHOTOCOPYING	To be confirmed
POSTAGE AND OTHER FORMS OF TRANSMISSION	To be confirmed
VAT (IF APPLICABLE)	
TOTAL	£450 plus

Payment can also be made using the online payment facility on the [Council web site](#).

To do this, go to 'Pay Online' and select - **Freedom of Information request**. Please insert your request reference number **FOI 20122718** in the 'Account' box.

While the legislation allows the Council 20 working days to respond to your request from the date of its receipt, this time limit is suspended until we receive payment.

As soon as we receive your payment we will begin work on your request (please be aware that payments take at least three working days from receipt to clear).

Alternatively, if you do not want to pay online, please make cheques payable to **Coventry City Council** and send to the address given below.

If we do not receive your payment by 14 August 2014, we will consider your request closed and no further action will be taken by the Council.

If you have any other issues relating to this request please do not hesitate to contact me.

21 May 2014

Please note, under the Re-Use of Public Sector Information 2005 Regulations you are free to use this information for your own use or for the purposes of news reporting.

However, any other type of re-use under the Regulations, for example; publication of the information or circulation to the public, will require permission of the copyright owner and may be subject to terms and conditions. For documents where the copyright does not belong to Coventry City Council you will need to apply separately to the copyright holder.

If you wish to apply to reuse the information you have requested or have any other issues relating to this request please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you are unhappy with the outcome or handling of your request you should write to us within 40 working days of the date of this letter:

Information Governance
Council House, Room 21a
Lower Ground Floor
Earl Street, Coventry.
CV1 5RR
infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If having done that you are still dissatisfied, the Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

Bernie Robinson
Business Support Officer