



Information Governance

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16 May 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: REQ03837

Thank you for your request for information relating to claims against the Council.

What was the value of claims against your authority's insurance policies in the financial year ending March 2017?

SELF INSURANCE (where applicable)

Thinking of every category of insurance claim (property-related, personal injury, motor etc.) made against your authority what was the total value of the payments made by yourselves rather than the insurers in each of the following financial years?

For clarity, these would be payments made within the policy excess.
Self-insurance:

	Financial year	Amount in £
1a.	2012/13	£1,634,931
1b.	2013/14	£1,185,594
1c.	2014/15	£ 441,103
1d.	2015/16	£ 563,717
1e.	2016/17	£ 343,840

Insurer pay-out

a. Personal Injury:

Nil.

b. Property Related:

Nil.

c. Motor-fleet related Claims:

Nil.

d. Public, Product and Professional Indemnity Insurance related claims:

Nil.

Management of Claims.

2. Does your authority's insurance provider handle claims on your behalf? Yes/No

Yes.

3. Does your authority handle any claims in-house? Yes/No - if yes, please provide a contact name and email address.

Yes, David Johnston, Insurance Manager, david.johnston@coventry.gov.uk

4. Does your authority contract with a third party to manage claims? Yes/No

Yes.

4a. Does the trust utilise the services of an insurance broker to place their insurance cover? If so, confirm the identity of the current insurance broker.

Yes - A J Gallagher.

4b. Where applicable, was the current broker appointed by way of a direct award or following a competition/tender exercise.

The current broker was appointed by way of a tender exercise.

Purchase and Costs of Insurance

1. Who is your authority's insurance provider(s)?

- Insurers AIG Ltd
- QBE
- HSB Ltd
- Chubb
- Zurich Engineering
- Blackwall Green

The total premium earned by the insurer/s concerned.

2. What was the cost of your insurance premium in the following financial years? Where you have more than one policy or insurer, please list these individually.*

3. Under your current insurance policy (or policies, as appropriate), what is the value of the excess per claim that you pay (for each category of risk for which there is a specific excess, and/or generally)?*

4. Apart from the above, does the council undertake any form of self-insurance?* If so what is the financial ceiling elected by the council in this regard?*

*In respect of questions 2-4, it is confirmed that the Council does hold information pursuant to your request, but it is our view that the information is exempt from disclosure under section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which provides the following:

“Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it)”.

With regard to questions 2-4, disclosure of the information would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of both itself and the insurers as it would reveal how the insurers gain a competitive advantage and provide sensitive detail of the pricing agreed. The information requested in question 4 would also inform an insurer as to our level of deductibles under the insurance policies, giving a further advantage to competitors.

The Council’s commercial interests would be affected because releasing the requested data would affect its ability to participate competitively in a commercial activity. The tender process to obtain the Council’s business in relation to insurance is a competitive process by disclosing the figures, future tenderers may be put off from competing in the procurement process. As a result, we are satisfied that the exemption applies.

This exemption is subject to the public interest test. There is an inherent public interest in ensuring that there is openness and transparency in the spending of public money. Transparency is likely to increase confidence in procurement procedures and purchasing decisions made by the Council. It will also enable the public to understand whether the Council is getting value for money from its purchasing decisions.

Having said this, we believe that disclosure of the information requested at 2-4 could prejudice the Council’s ability to make sound purchasing decisions as tenderers would not be operating from a level playing field. For example, disclosure of the insurance premium or the excess we pay could lead to the competitor reducing their prices to win work without actually having the internal mechanisms (capacity, staffing skills, etc.) to deliver the product or service at the level and price outlined. This could lead to increased instances of errors in relation to insurance claims against the Council, which would be contrary to the public interest as there would inevitably be additional costs funded from the public purse.

After considering the arguments outlined above, the Council has decided to withhold the requested information at 2-4.

Regarding your Authority's stop-loss policy

5a. Do you have an authority-wide stop-loss?

Not applicable.

5b. If 'Yes' to 5a, what financial threshold is it set at?

Not applicable.

5c. If 'Yes' to 5a, what does the premium for this cost?

Not applicable.

6a. Does the council utilise the services of an insurance broker to place their insurance cover? If so, confirm the identity of the current insurance broker.

Yes - A J Gallagher.

6b. Does the council participate in any insurance arrangements with other councils?

No.

7a. How long has the council worked with its current insurer(s)?

Over 10 years.

7b. When is the next insurance tender(s)?

Not yet confirmed.

The supply of information in response to a Freedom of Information request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

Should you wish to make any further requests for information, you may find what you are looking for is already published on the [Council's web site](#) and in particular its [FOI/EIR Disclosure log](#), [Council's Publication Scheme](#), [Open Data](#) and [Facts about Coventry](#).

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email casework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

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