



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI683115909

Thank you for your request for information relating to General statistics on vegetation blocking footways.

You have requested the following information:

Reports of Obstruction from Private Land:

1. How many reports or complaints regarding overgrown vegetation and foliage obstructing footways, originating from private land were received by your authority in the past two years (2023 and 2024)?

We hold the information which you have asked for, but we have estimated that the cost of meeting your request would exceed the cost limit of £450 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations 2004). This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours or more, in determining whether the information is held, locating, retrieving and extracting it.

This information is not held in a reportable format and therefore it would require an officer to manually retrieve this information. As this would require searching through every public enquiry logged in 2023 and 2024, we estimate that this will exceed 18 hours work. This part of your request has been refused under section 12(2) of the Act.

2. How many reports or complaints regarding overgrown vegetation and foliage obstructing footways originating from public land were received by your authority in the same period?

See response provide to Question 1.

Actions Taken by the Authority:

Reports of vegetation growing from public highway or Council land would be passed to the appropriate team to deal with.

Enforcement or Intervention on Private Land:

Reports of overgrown vegetation from private land are all dealt with in the same way as per our Section 154 process. We would send a 14 day letter to the landowner, a 7 day, a pre-notice and then we would serve a legal notice which would allow us to enforce (carry out the work and recharge the landowner).

3. For reports concerning overhanging vegetation and foliage from private land, how many led to:**• The landowner being contacted?**

We do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act.

• Formal enforcement action?

We do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act.

• Direct intervention by the authority to remove or address the vegetation?

See response to next question.

• Penalty fines issued?

We do not issue penalty charge notices, S154 of the highways act only permits us to carry out the work and recharge the landowner.

Length of time for action to be taken:

We are advising you as per Section 1(1) that this information is not held. This information is not available; it varies per enquiry and is not recorded.

4. On average, how long did each report take to action, from the moment the complaint was received, to the point which the issue was dealt with? this information is not available;

We are advising you as per Section 1(1) that this information is not held. It varies per enquiry and is not recorded.

5. What is the usual timeframe you state you will deal with overgrown vegetation and foliage in?

We do not have stipulated time frames.

Maintenance of Public Land:**6. What actions were undertaken to address complaints about overgrown vegetation and foliage obstructing footways on public land? Please provide details of:****• The number of cases resolved per year (2023 and 2024).**

See response provided to Question 1 above (exceeds cost of compliance).

• The nature of the interventions (e.g., pruning, clearing, etc.).

We are advising you as per Section 1(1) that this information is not held.

Best Practices and Guidance**Policies or Guidance on Overhanging Vegetation:****7. Does your authority have any specific policies, procedures, or guidance documents on**

preventing or addressing overgrown vegetation and foliage obstructing footways? If so, please provide copies or links to these documents, ensuring they are in an accessible format for blind and partially sighted people.

No documentation is available.

Examples of Good Practice:

8. Can you provide examples of good practice adopted by your authority to effectively manage overhanging vegetation and foliage issues (e.g., community engagement, educational campaigns, partnerships with landowners, or consultation with disability groups)?

No documentation is available.

Coordination with Other Authorities:

9. Has your authority worked with neighbouring councils or external organizations to share resources or best practices for tackling overhanging vegetation? If so, please provide details.

The Highways and Urban Forestry teams have not worked with neighbouring authorities.

Accessible reporting

10. What is the process of reporting overgrown vegetation and foliage, how many steps are there, and how accessible/easy to find are these processes on your website? (By accessible, we mean how easy is it for a blind or partially sighted person using assistive technology or person with low vision, to access and report it.)

Reports are made to the general customer service centre. The Council's customer services enquiry pages provide the ability for anyone to report matters like this.

11. How many reports of overgrown vegetation and foliage did you receive from blind and partially sighted people did you receive in the past two years?

See response to Question 1.

Spending and Budget Allocation

Expenditure on Addressing Vegetation Issues:

12. What was the total expenditure allocated and spent by the authority on tackling overhanging vegetation and foliage affecting footways during the past two years? Please break down this spending by:

- Addressing vegetation from public land.

None

- Addressing vegetation from private land (including enforcement and direct intervention costs).

See response to Question 1.

Additional Budget for Vegetation Management:

13. Has your authority allocated any specific budget or additional funding (e.g., grants, subsidies) to manage overhanging vegetation and foliage? If so, please provide details of the amounts and their use.

None.

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For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

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 icocasework@ico.org.uk.

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

Yours faithfully

Information Governance