



Information Governance Team

Postal Address:
Coventry City Council
PO Box 7097
Coventry
CV6 9SL

www.coventry.gov.uk

E mail: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

Phone: 024 7697 5408

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Dear Sir/Madam

Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) Request ID: FOI699767105

Thank you for your request for information relating to Clifford Bridge Road Cycleway - RSA1 Audit.

You have requested the following information:

I would like to request any emails that Cllr Hetherton either sent, received or was copied into that refer to Clifford Bridge Road and or The Binley Cycle Way (Section 7). In particular, any with regard to the Road Safety Audit, (RSA1).

The Council has reviewed your request and considers that the information requested is exempt from disclosure under regulation 12(4)(b) of the Environmental Information Regulations and is therefore withheld.

Regulation 12(4)(b) – Manifestly Unreasonable

The reasons for applying this exemption are set out below.

We consider that your request falls under the exception under regulation 12(4)(b) as 'manifestly unreasonable'. Under the EIR public authorities may refuse requests that are manifestly (i.e. obviously or clearly) unreasonable when the cost of compliance is too great.

Our searches have revealed that the authority holds a significant number of emails which have met the search parameters of your request and considers that it would be manifestly unreasonable (within the meaning of regulation 12(4)(b) of the EIR) to have to review the entire content of these emails to apply the EIR, which would include a process of identifying what information could and could not be disclosed.

A public authority can only withhold information if the public interest in maintaining the exception outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. We are mindful of the general public interest in transparency and accountability, and of the presumption in favour of disclosure and to read exceptions restrictively.

We consider that the information we have already identified would likely engage one or more of the disclosure exception provisions of the EIR. We would therefore have to spend a considerable amount of time reviewing each email individually to consider whether or not it would be exempt from disclosure. The time and resources required to review this information would be unreasonable given the potential for it to remain exempt information and (where it is suitable for release under the EIR) the limited benefit to the public debate on this matter.

On balance therefore, it is our view that the public interest in maintaining the exception in regulation 12(4)(b) outweighs the public interest in disclosure. We understand this response may not meet your requirements but it aims to ensure as recognised in the guidance that our responsibilities under the act do not distract from our other statutory functions as a public authority.

As we recognise there is a public interest in the openness and transparency of Council decision making around the Cycleways, we refer you to information contained on the Council website and within the Cabinet reports.

The following webpage has been updated to include the safety audits and other documents. This will be kept updated see sections 2 and 7:

[https://www.coventry.gov.uk/cycling/1/segregated cycleways/7](https://www.coventry.gov.uk/cycling/1/segregated-cycleways/7)

We advise that the Council has responded to residents concerning the decision making process for the Binley cycleway. Furthermore, the decision-making process for the cycleway was reviewed in the High Court on 6 March 2025. The judge considering the matter was aware of the information that was available to decision-makers at each stage of the process. The judgment determined that the decision was correctly made and took account of all the material considerations.

Although you may be disappointed by this approach, we would stress that such protection exists within the legislation in order to ensure that applicants use their rights to seek information responsibly and public authorities are not overwhelmed by over burdensome requests.

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