



**Information Governance Team**

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02 May 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**

**Request ID: FOI702581974**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Cemetery/Crematorium Management Solution.

You have requested the following information:

**1. What Cemetery/Crematorium Management solution does your council currently use?**

Software: Epilogue

Supplier: Gower Consultants Ltd

**2. When is the contract end date for the Cemetery/Crematorium Management solution?**

The contract is due to expire on 31 March 2026.

**3. When was the Cemetery/Crematorium Management solution contract last re-tendered?**

The contract was last re tendered in 2023/24.

**4. Could you please provide the contract value for the Cemetery/Crematorium Management solution?**

With regards to the contact value for the Cemetery/Crematorium Management Solution, it is confirmed that the Council does hold information pursuant to your request. However, it is our view that the information is exempt from disclosure under Section 43(2) – Commercially Sensitive Information.

Section 43(2) exempts information from disclosure where disclosure of that information would, or

would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity).

It is the Council's position that the third-party providers and its own commercial interests would be prejudiced and/or would be likely to be prejudiced by the disclosure of the requested information.

Once the information is disclosed this means that it will be in the public domain and it could not only be used by the requester but also any other providers in a similar market.

**Arguments in favour of disclosure.**

- Promote accountability and transparency for the Council's decisions and in its spending of public money.
- Assist the public to understand and challenge our decisions.
- Inform the public of the activities carried out on their behalf, allowing for more user involvement and collaborative decision making.
- Enable the public to better scrutinise the public monies spent

**Arguments against disclosure.**

- There is a public interest in allowing public authorities to withhold information which if disclosed, would reduce providers' ability to compete in a commercial environment.
- The successful providers operate in a competitive market. If prejudicing the commercial interests of the successful providers in the market would distort competition in that market, this would not be in the public interest.
- Disclosure of information may cause unwarranted reputational damage or loss of confidence in the Council.
- Revealing information such as a pricing mechanism can be detrimental to a provider's commercial interest. If an organisation has knowledge of a provider's business model, it can exploit this for its own commercial interest. This would also have a detrimental impact on the Council on other contracts and procurements by distorting the market, for the reasons stated above.

Having considered the arguments for and against disclosure, the Council has decided that the public interest in this case is best served by maintaining the exemption under section 43(2) FOIA and by not disclosing the information requested.

The decision to withhold the information requested is therefore upheld on the basis that Section 43(2) in relation to commercially sensitive information has been applied correctly.

**5. Is there an intent to release a tender for Cemetery/Crematorium Management solutions in the foreseeable future? If so, please kindly provide an estimated timeline or relevant details.**

We have no plans to release a tender at this time.

**6. If your Cemetery/Crematorium Management system hosted or on premise?**

Our management system is hosted on premise.

**7. Does your Council have a Digital Strategy around the use of AI for other service areas?**

We confirm we are working on our plans and approach regarding the use of Artificial Intelligence. Our most recent update can be found in our presentation for a meeting Scrutiny Co ordination committee on 06 March 2025, which is available for you to access via the below link:

<https://edemocracy.coventry.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=568&MID=12960#AI40592>

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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](mailto: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](mailto:icocasework@ico.org.uk).

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

Yours faithfully

**Information Governance**