



**Information Governance Team**

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06 June 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)  
Request ID: FOI714470522**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Payment Details and Contact Information.

You have requested the following information:

**I am writing to formally request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please provide the following details regarding payments for Business Rates and Council Tax refunds:**

- 1. The sort code and account number from which refunds for Business Rates and Council Tax are paid.**
- 2. The exact wording that appears on payments issued from your bank accounts (e.g., CX190707 BURNLEY BOROUGH CO 40151791206850).**

We can confirm that Coventry City Council holds the information you requested. However, we are withholding that information since we consider that the following exemptions apply to it.

This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 31(1)(a) – Law Enforcement. Disclosure of this information would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

A disclosure made under the FOIA is a disclosure to the world at large. Releasing such information exposes the Council to fraudulent use of their Account details and documents as those details would be placed into the general public domain.

Releasing account details and the details of the exact wording within our payment letters along

would result in the need to implement disproportionate steps and additional expense to the public purse to counter an increased fraud risk that does not exist at present.

To use this exemption, we are required to undertake a public interest test. The matters which were considered in applying the public interest test are as follows:

### **Factors in favour of disclosure**

It is in the public interest to be open and transparent about our use of public funds.

It is also in the public interest to provide some transparency regarding the records we hold in respect of the administration of business rates.

### **Factors in favour of withholding**

Disclosure of the requested information would result in the need to implement disproportionate steps and additional expense to the public purse to counter an increased fraud risk that does not exist at present.

It would not be in the public interest to expose it to such potential costs and expenses, given that they would be funded from the public purse.

It is considered that the greater public interest, therefore, lies in not providing the information at this time. In coming to that conclusion, the public interest in providing the information has been carefully weighed against any prejudice to the public interest that might arise from withholding the information; in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. This response, therefore, acts as a refusal notice under Section 17 of the FOIA.

### **3. The contact telephone number and email address for your Council Tax and Business Rates teams.**

Council Tax: 024 7683 1111 – no email address available

Business Rates: 024 7683 2525 [businessrates@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:businessrates@coventry.gov.uk)

### **4. The contact telephone number and email address for your Accounts Payable/Finance teams.**

Telephone: 024 7697 5232

Email: [apadmin@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:apadmin@coventry.gov.uk)

The supply of information in response to a FOI/EIR 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.

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**