



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

12 January 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI774460861

Thank you for your request for information relating to Public Interest Entity Status.

You have requested the following information:

I request the following information under my statutory Freedom of Information Rights.

(1) Whether Coventry (City of) was categorised in each of the financial years 2018-19 to 2025-26 (or which of these, if not all) as Public Interest Entities in terms of Regulation 2 of the Statutory Auditors and Third Country Auditors Regulations 2016 and Section 494A of the Companies Act 2006.

Coventry City Council met the definition of a Public Interest Entity for those financial years in which it had listed debt outstanding. The Council had listed debt outstanding throughout the period from 2018 19 to 2024 25. The listed debt was repaid in March 2025, and accordingly the Council did not meet the definition of a Public Interest Entity during 2025-26.

(2) The Treasury has identified Coventry (City of) as a Public Interest Entity as at July 2020, on the basis of issuing 'public debt'. The FOI references are HM Treasury FOI2025/02130, 24 February 2025 and IR2025/05693, 8 May 2025 (both attached). Which public debt instruments issued, at which date of issue, result in this status?

The public debt instrument that resulted in the Council meeting the definition of a Public Interest Entity was a listed loan stock / bond issue, with the following characteristics:

Instrument: Listed loan stock / bonds

Nominal amount: £12,004,804

Coupon: 8.25%

Issue date: 5th January 1996

Maturity date: 5th January 2026

Repayment date: March 2025

(3) Where in the annual accounts for the years 2018-19 to 2024-25 (or fewer years if applicable) are the users of those accounts informed of the Public Interest Entity status? If this is not in the annual accounts, through which mechanisms were members of the council and of the audit committee informed of the PIE status and of its significance?

The Council's annual Statements of Accounts do not explicitly describe the Council as a "Public Interest Entity". Instead, the accounts disclose the existence of listed debt instruments, from which Public Interest Entity status arises under the relevant legislation.

Members of the Council are informed of the Council's Public Interest Entity status, and of its significance for the audit, through communications from the external auditor presented to the Audit and Procurement Committee, which is a formal committee of elected members. These communications include the External Audit Plan and, where produced, the Audit Findings Report, both of which are presented in public session and published as committee papers.

For certain years within the period requested, Audit Findings Reports were not produced due to the application of national audit backstop arrangements. However, the External Audit Plan remained the primary public mechanism through which audit scope and regulatory considerations, including Public Interest Entity status, were communicated to members.

(4) Communications from your auditors that are in the public domain regarding the results of the additional audit work consequent on the classification as Public Interest Entity.

The Council's external auditors have communicated the implications and results of additional audit work arising from the Council's classification as a Public Interest Entity through publicly available committee papers. In particular, the External Auditor's Audit Findings Reports, where produced, refer to the additional audit work and reporting requirements associated with Public Interest Entity audits, including enhanced ethical and quality standards and extended audit reporting. These reports are presented to the Audit and Procurement Committee in public session and are published on the Council's website.

Where Audit Findings Reports were not produced due to the application of national audit backstop arrangements, the External Audit Plan remains the relevant public communication setting out the audit approach and regulatory considerations applicable to the Council, including those arising from Public Interest Entity status.

The supply of information in response to a FOI 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

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