



**Information Governance Team**

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Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)  
Request ID: FOI799553742**

Thank you for your request for information relating to BEAS Funding.

You have requested the following information:

**Please provide a list of Coventry based businesses that received BEAS (Business Energy Advice Service) capital grants or BEAS funded support during 2024–2025.**

BEAS Grant supported – 34 SME within Coventry

BEAS Audits were conducted and provided to 20 SMEs in Coventry.

Regarding a list of businesses, 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.

The commercial impact exemption under FOI asks for a consideration on whether anyone's commercial interests would be or may be impacted. In this case we would argue that the commercial interests of the recipient, WMCA, and Coventry may be impacted. 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.
- Recipients are considering energy efficiency audits likely to have an initial cost to them if implemented. The early disclosure of this could impact their ability to get best value for money or secure use of grants in the most beneficial manner.
- Disclosure of information may cause unwarranted reputational damage or loss of confidence in the Council.

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 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**