



**Information Governance Team**

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Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)  
Request ID: FOI819882297**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Data Centre Planning Applications and Non Disclosure.

You have requested the following information:

**I am writing to request information held by your council concerning data centre planning applications, non-disclosure agreements and confidentiality arrangements related to such applications.**

**Please provide the following:**

**1. Planning applications (last five years):**

**All planning applications submitted to the council since 1 January 2021 that relate to data centres, cloud computing facilities, hyperscale computing facilities or AI infrastructure. For each application, please provide:**

- **Planning reference number**
- **Application date**
- **Applicant name (individual or corporate)**
- **Site address**
- **Brief description of proposed use**
- **Current status (approved, refused, withdrawn, pending)**
- **Decision date (if determined)**

**2. Non-disclosure agreements:**

**Copies of any non-disclosure agreements (NDAs), confidentiality agreements or similar**

instruments entered into by the council with applicants, developers or operators in connection with data-centre planning applications or negotiations since 1 January 2021. If full copies cannot be disclosed due to commercial sensitivity, please provide:

- The number of such agreements
- The parties to each agreement
- The date each agreement was signed
- A summary of the type of information covered (for example, site location, energy consumption, tenant identity)
- Whether each agreement has expired or remains in force

**3. Policy and guidance:**

Any internal guidance, policy documents or legal advice provided to planning officers or councillors regarding the use of NDAs or confidentiality clauses in data-centre planning matters.

**4. Correspondence and briefings:**

Any correspondence (including emails) or briefing notes between council officers, elected members and data-centre developers or their agents concerning confidentiality, NDAs or the withholding of information from the public domain in relation to data-centre projects since 1 January 2021. (If too large, please provide a schedule or log showing date, parties and subject, rather than full text.)

**Public interest arguments:**

I recognise that some of this information may engage exemptions under sections 41 (information provided in confidence), 43 (commercial interests) or others. However, I contend there is a strong public interest in disclosure because:

- Data centres are now classified by the UK government as critical national infrastructure, affecting energy security, environmental planning and local resilience.
- The practice of councils signing NDAs with private developers has attracted significant public and media scrutiny, including recent commitments by major operators to cease requiring such agreements.
- Transparency in planning processes is essential to democratic accountability, particularly where large-scale developments with significant energy, water and land-use implications are involved.
- Public debate about the location and environmental impact of hyperscale facilities is hampered when key details are withheld under commercial confidentiality.

**I therefore ask that you conduct a public interest test for any qualified exemptions and disclose as much information as possible.**

We confirm that we do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. The council does not hold any applications regarding Data Centres.

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**