

South Kesteven District Council

Council Offices, St. Peter's Hill
Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6PZ
Tel: 01476 40 60 80
www.southkesteven.gov.uk



Partnerships & Community Safety

Your ref: 11272-e6c4b3c5
Our ref: SAM/MJ/FOI 536
Fax: 01476 40 60 00

Please ask for: Mark Jones
Direct line: 01476 40 64 21
Email: m.jones@southkesteven.gov.uk

Rob Shorrock

Date: 26th May 2009

Dear Sir

RE: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 dated 5th May 2009. Please find the information you have requested detailed below:

Please could you provide details of the use on district council land and buildings of ultra-sonic youth dispersal devices, known as 'mosquito' devices designed to discourage young people under the age of 25?

There is currently one device installed at the entrance to the Mayors Parlour, The Guildhall, St Peter's Hill, Grantham. It is switched off at this moment in time, pending further tests;

Could you also provide information of the provision of these devices on other sites about which the council holds information?

Although this Authority is aware of a number of other Councils who utilise this technology, we do not hold any information on specific sites;

Could you also provide information on discussions relating to the legality of these devices and any equality impact assessments that have been undertaken?

The legality of the device is well documented – evidence of this can be found at www.compoundsecurity.co.uk. An initial Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out post-installation. There was no requirement to carry out a full assessment;

Could you also provide details of complaints in the last 4 years made to environmental health services about the noise created and any other assessments or guidance the environmental health department has made about these devices?

Prior to your Freedom of Information request date there were no complaints to Environmental Protection regarding the noise emitted from this device. The equipment has been tested, in relation to the HSE contract research report 343/2001 by the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) in London. Test outcomes documented by the NPL state that, according to the current workplace and international (World Health Organisation) guidance, the sound output of the Mosquito will not be prejudicial to health, even with prolonged exposure. An assessment of the emissions from the device located at The Guildhall will be carried out by a representative from the Environmental Protection department (SKDC) as soon as conditions allow.

If you have any queries or concerns then please contact either contact myself or Mrs Lucy Youles, Legal Services Manager/Monitoring Officer or Mr Paul Rushworth Trainee Solicitor – Legal Services, South Kesteven District Council, Council Offices, St. Peter's Hill, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6PZ, telephone 01476 406080.

Further information is also available from the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone number: 01625 545 700

Or by visiting the Information Commissioner's Office website at:

www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Yours sincerely



Mark Jones
Service Manager – Partnerships & Community Safety