

Mr Matt White

Our Ref: 587/475

Date: 25 August 2009

Re: Planning applications featuring a change of use from A1 (shop), under the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987.

Dear Mr White

Further to your above request, I can confirm that the Council has the information you asked for. As you have requested information relating to planning applications, it has been determined that the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) is the appropriate legislation.

On 4th August 2009 you asked for the following information:

In the last 5 years:

- 1) How many planning applications have you received featuring a change of use from A1?*
- 2) Of those applications in 1, how many of these were retrospective?*
- 3) How many planning applications have you received from Starbucks (or their representatives) featuring a change of use from A1?*
- 4) Of those applications in 3, how many of these were retrospective?*

Questions 1 & 2 are defined by the Council as "Historic Searches" for which there is a charge of £42 +VAT/hour. An initial assessment shows that there have been 190 Change of Use (COU) applications over the last 5 years. As the information about the change type or retrospective applications is recorded in a free text field, we cannot query our system. We would, therefore, have to inspect each file to determine whether:

- a) It is potentially an A1 change of use and if so;
- b) Whether it was retrospective.

We have estimated that to query the system and then assess each application would take on average 5mins/application. This would take about 15.8 hours which equates to a charge of £763.14. If you would like us to carry out this work, you must send a payment for the above amount either by debit/credit card over the phone on 01305 838000 or by cheque to the above address quoting the reference 587/475.

Alternatively, most of this information is accessible via our website – <http://www.weymouth.gov.uk/home.asp?sv=855>. If you carry out a search based on the Planning Reference Number using the code COU, that will bring up all the Change of Use applications for the last 13 years and for any request after 1st December 2005, the planning documents can be viewed. You are also welcome to visit the Council Offices between 0900-1600 Mon – Fri and inspect the planning files free of charge other than a nominal charge for copies.

With regards to questions 3 & 4, I can confirm that we have only received 1 application from Starbucks requesting a Change Of Use from A1 which was in 2008 and I can confirm that it was not a retrospective application.

Your request will now be suspended and if I do not hear from you within 30 days, I will assume that you do not want to proceed with the search and your request will be closed. If you have any questions, please do contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Sinclair', written over a horizontal line.

David Sinclair
Freedom of Information Officer

The Information Commissioner's Office,
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Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

		Public Interest Test	
Exemption Class	Description	For	Against