

**Request:**

How many Local Government Act Part III Section 32(3) notices has your council served on a Local Government Ombudsman.

How many times has the Ombudsman concerned found the council guilty of maladministration for misusing a Section 32(3) notice.

**Response:**

This request is refused under s12 (1) Freedom of Information Act 2000, since the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. In assessing the cost of complying, the costs attributable to officer time involved in complying have been taken into account. Such costs are limited to £450.00, which equates to eighteen hours of officer time.

The reason for this is that staff would have to search through 298 case files to establish how many times the Section 32 exemption has been used, in order to identify the information requested.

In the last 5 years on all cases North Tyneside Council has only had 2 findings of maladministration, none of these were for misuse of a Section 32 exemption.

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