

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 August 2009 09:52
To: Seedher, Raj [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: what do they know
Attachments: whatdotheyknow.pdf

Raj, [REDACTED]

We need to be clear about what information it is we are objecting to posting and why – what grounds will we employ in the section 17 notice.

There are some complicated arguments involved here. Is publishing it on whatdotheyknow a re-use? If we respond to the email address knowing it publishes automatically do we lose any protection we have with regard to disclosing third party copyright under FOI and any rights to protect our own?

We need to set out our arguments. If we think responding does amount to an unauthorised re-use then I think a mechanism we can apply is section 14 - manifestly unreasonable.

We need to be careful to distinguish our arguments from those employed by Rother and criticised by the ICO in the attached letter which you will have seen they include in the whatdotheyknow help pages. Is it worth raising this with the IC first? I think to be taken seriously by ICO we need to be able to point to real concerns such as questions around copyright?

There are some cross-overs on copyright and re-use with what Stephanie has been looking at re Land Charges data but the difference is significant as we are made complicit in the re-use.

[REDACTED]

From: Seedher, Raj
Sent: 12 August 2009 09:05
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: what do they know

Hi [REDACTED]

We've made a decision not to send responses to the whatdotheyknow email address because it publishes automatically. We will request the applicant's email address. If they insist on using the whatdotheyknow email

address, we will supply any attached information that will not have any issues to the email address and put in a disclaimer in bold that that the information has not been approved by the council for re-use.

I think your idea about NSG is a good one. We should not include responses because of the issue that you have identified about the need to check for quality and redaction. If you look at other council's they tend to publish the outcomes only.

Rajesh Seedher
IT Standards Manager
Information Technology Unit
Business Transformation Department
Brent Council
Telephone 020 8937 1402

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 August 2009 08:34
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Seedher, Raj
Subject: RE: what do they know

I agree with the concern about this site. I am not sure if it would be possible to enforce against however. Any views?

Producing something for our disclosure log from NSG would not include the information provided itself but simply the recorded result (All information; some information etc.) as per the website here and therefore not raise the concerns identified. I didn't really make this clear in my first email so sorry about that. We couldn't do it for responses as these are not recorded. The only way to include responses would be to ask staff to keep a record in summary form (the system does already allow for this although it is not used).

One issue we would have is where subjects have identified themselves in the content of their request. This would require redaction. Although requiring some manual intervention, this should be quicker than a fully manual log.

Just a thought

Cheers

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 August 2009 14:34
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: what do they know

[REDACTED]

As you will see from his response I forwarded to this Raj but for him the issues are filtering the information that is input and issues around re-use and copyright if all the responses are up there.

[REDACTED]

From: Seedher, Raj
Sent: 11 August 2009 14:20
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: what do they know

Hi [REDACTED]

One issue is that the website may breach the re-use regulations.

Because the site automatically publishes responses and attachments, it ignores our request on copyright and seeking approval to re-use without a re-use license.

I am also concerned that our list of empty properties is being published.

Rajesh Seedher
IT Standards Manager
Information Technology Unit
Business Transformation Department
Brent Council
Telephone 020 8937 1402

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 August 2009 14:14
To: Seedher, Raj
Subject: FW: what do they know

FYI

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 August 2009 10:38
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: what do they know

Hi [REDACTED]

After you mentioned concerns regarding an email address with 'whatdotheyknow' implying that a request was made on behalf of someone else, I have had a look into it. <http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/> is a website that allows users to submit requests to councils. The request is then published on the site along with the status while that request is in progress (awaiting response; overdue; successful etc.) and the response once available. Responses are then available for anyone to search and users are able to annotate and comment as they wish.

The site is produced by mysociety.org and is searchable by any public authority in the UK.

[REDACTED]

This may provide a good example for our own disclosure register. A similar report should be possible through NSG. The only requests which would then require manual intervention would be those where information is not recorded in full in the system. If these were to be populated by the assigned units it would give people an incentive to make sure information is entered accurately.

Cheers

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]