



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

**Transport Policy
Unit**

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21 April 2009

Sean Corker request-8368-4f5a11f9@whatdotheyknow.com

Sean Corker

Dear Mr Corker

Request for Information - Ref No: CEX/7QHQGH

Thank you for your request for information dated 23rd February 2009 which has been dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA).

Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

You have asked for all communication with the organisation CURACAO (Co-ordination of Urban Road-user Charging Organisational issues), specifically a copy of Manchester's response to CURACAO's User Needs Assessment Questionnaire.

Please note that having made extensive searches the Council is not able to locate a copy of the response to the CURACAO User Needs Assessment Questionnaire. We have checked paper files, electronic records and asked our ICT service to search records held in the back up system.

Based on these enquiries I regret to inform you that we do not hold the requested information.

The officer who would have been involved in the completion of this survey in 2006 no longer works for the City Council. It is understood that respondents had the option of answering the survey over the telephone and it is possible the officer answered the survey in this way.

Although the Council is not obliged to do so under the provisions of FoIA, we have asked CURACAO if they still have the survey information provided by the Council. If so, we hope to be able to provide this. Once I receive a response from CURACAO, I will contact you again.

You also asked for communications between the Council and CURACAO and I have summarised these below:

1. Invitation to attend a CURACAO User Group meeting on 29th September 2008 in Berlin (not taken up)
2. Invitation to attend a CURACAO User Group meeting on 26th November 2008 in Barcelona (not taken up)
3. Requests from CURACAO for comments on Manchester case study for inclusion in research report to be published by CURACAO, provided by the Council in December 2008.

In relation to point 3, the Council has not provided these comments as it considers this is exempt information under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act.

This exemption provides that information held by a public authority with a view to its publication by the authority or, another person at some future date may be withheld from disclosure.

As CURACAO intend to publish their research report, I do not believe it would be reasonable in the circumstances for the Council to publish this information now.

This exemption is subject to a public interest test. On balance, I do not believe the public interest is best served by prematurely disclosing extracts from information destined for future publication. CURACAO will be publishing the results of their completed research study and it is important that organisations, within reason, have space to determine their own publication timetable and the ability to deal with the necessary preparation, administration and context of publication.

Once again please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

Please note if you are not satisfied with this response you may ask for an internal review. If you wish to complain you should contact Lynn Evans Information Compliance officer whose email address is informationcompliance@manchester.gov.uk.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

Please quote the above reference number in any future related correspondence.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Clark', written in a cursive style.

Stephen Clark
Head of Transport