

Hammersmith and Fulham

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13 May 2021

Mr. Owen Sheppard

Our reference: 1895710

Dear Mr. Sheppard

Thank you for your request for information received on 13 April 2021.

Your request

On March 23, 2021 the council's Schools Forum met and was presented with a report called 'Update: High Needs Block 2020/21'.

This report includes details of a 'phase 3 transformation' project.

Could I please ask the council to provide me with a copy of any internal reports whose primary purpose was to explain what the 'Phase 3 transformation' project is and what it will involve.

Our response

This request is being handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I can confirm that Hammersmith & Fulham holds the information you requested. However, we are withholding that information since we consider that the following exemptions apply to it.

We are unable to comply with your request at this time as the information is intended for future publication and, therefore, is exempt from disclosure under section 22(1) of the FOI Act. We have agreed a high-level plan with the DfE that is now subject to co-production and consultation with our partners.

Section 22(1) is a qualified exemption which means that the information falling within the exemption still has to be released unless the public interest in disclosure is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the exemption.

The Council recognises that there is a general public interest in information held by public authorities being made available and that it should take place at the earliest appropriate time. This helps towards ensuring the public accountability and transparency of public

authorities and promotes public engagement in any debate about the delivery of public services and the use of public funds.

However, the public interest can sometimes be best served by the planned publication of information at an appropriate time rather than in response to an individual request for that information ahead of that time.

On balance, and in all the circumstances of this particular case, the Council has concluded that the public interest is best served by the planned publication in September 2021 of the information you have requested and by maintaining the exemption at section 22(1) at this time.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request for information, please contact the h&f InTouch team within 40 working days of receiving this response. They will consider the matters raised and decide whether they are referred to the Council's Information Manager for an internal review.

You can write to the h&f InTouch team at Room 229, Hammersmith Town Hall, King Street, London W6 9JU, or email: handfintouch@lbhf.gov.uk. If you are registered for self-service, via the Council's My Account portal, you can also do this online: [Click here to complete the form](#)

You also have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF. Tel: 0303 123 1113. Website: www.ico.org.uk/concerns/. There is no charge for making an appeal. The ICO may ask you to contact Hammersmith and Fulham, so we can complete an internal review, before the ICO investigates the matter.

Yours sincerely

Gary Clothier
Investigations and Information Officer