

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Request for Information

Please provide the following information:

Any information you hold relating to the decisions by North Somerset Council to
a) cease their funding to Bristol City Council's Environmental Records Centre
and
b) fund environmental records management activity by the Forest of Avon
Trust.

Please find attached 2 letters relating to your request. The Council also holds the following information, which is relevant to your request. You will note that the identity of a private third party has been redacted. This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Personal Information). This section of the Act provides an exemption to the general right of access to information, where the disclosure of personal information would breach any of the Data Protection principles. The Council considers that disclosure of this information would constitute a breach of the fairness requirement of the first principle. This is because the individuals in question have not consented to the disclosure of their details. In addition they have a reasonable expectation that the Council will keep their information confidential.

Email from North Somerset to Bristol City Council's Environmental Records Centre on 15/11/2010

Now that we are past the CSR and our budget proposals have been considered by the Corporate Management Team I am in a position to confirm that North Somerset Council will not purchase services from BRERC in future. This will be from 2011/2012.

With budget reductions across our services between 30-40% we having to redesign and in many cases redefine what services we deliver and how we deliver them. The decision around BRERC is a result of this process.

Regards,

Mark MacGregor
Community and Environment Service Manager North Somerset Council

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Email from Bristol City Council's Environmental Records Centre to a third party on
14/09/2011

[personal data – exempt]

North Somerset withdrew its funding and have been promoting an initiative for people to send them data, particularly data on protected species. Consequently they have not paid for any data services or data provision by BRERC since last March.

[...information not relevant to the request...]

North Somerset are paying Forest of Avon to try and persuade individuals and organisations to collate and verify the data they envisage being sent to the Council. They state they intend to send the data onto BRERC and the NBN.

[...information not relevant to the request...]