

Accessibility Consultancy

Email: request-123131-6a0c4373@whatdotheyknow.com

John McElvaney
Solicitor
Director of Legal Services
County Hall
Matlock
Derbyshire
DE4 3AG

Telephone: 01629 538373
Ask for: Elizabeth Wild
Our Ref: EW/LFE/55117
Your Ref:
18 October 2012

Dear Sirs

Re: Request for information – internal review

I write regarding your request for a review of the Council's response to your freedom of information request, which you made on the 4th September 2012. I am the officer appointed to review this matter and I have now had the opportunity to evaluate the response given by Derbyshire County Council.

Your original request was as follows:

1. Please confirm whether you have a current Accessibility Strategy pursuant to the Equality Act 2010.
2. If you do not have an up to date Accessibility Strategy please confirm what steps are being taken to address this breach of the Act, and who is responsible for managing this process. Please supply contact details for this officer.
3. If you have an up to date accessibility strategy, does it cover in its content, provision for addressing web accessibility.
4. Does the strategy refer to any British Standards in regards to web accessibility (e.g. BS8878) – if so how.
5. Does the strategy refer to any international standards in regards to web accessibility (e.g. W3C WAI WCAG 2.0) – if so how.
6. Do you have any additional charters or policy commitments in regards to web accessibility – please supply these in an accessible electronic form.
7. If you have an up to date Accessibility Strategy please provide a URL where it is published. If it is not available to the general public please supply this in an accessible electronic form.

As reviewing officer I have now had the opportunity to evaluate the initial response given by the Council; please see the review below.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) a requester has the right to be informed in writing whether or not a public authority holds information specified in a request and to have that information provided, subject to limited exemptions.

Under FOIA the Council has 20 working days from the receipt of the request. I consider that the Council failed in its duty to provide a response within 20 working days.

In the initial response the Council provided the information considered relevant for the request. At question 1 the Council advised that the current Accessibility Strategy runs for the period 2009-12 and that consultation on the strategy for the period 2012-15 is awaiting permission from Cabinet.

The Council considered that the information provided in response to question 1 related to the current strategy as it was dated 2009-12. It was determined, therefore, that the answer to question 2 was not applicable.

I have taken instructions from the appropriate department and have been provided with the following information, in response to question 2:

The responsible officer for progressing the next phase of the Council's accessibility strategy April 2012-March 2015 is Ralph Ashton, Head of SEN and Disabilities in the Children and Younger Adults department. He can be contacted by email: ralph.ashton@derbyshire.gov.uk.

In summary, I consider that Derbyshire County Council failed in its duty to provide the requested information within 20 working days. I consider that the Council failed to provide all information relevant to the request but that the additional information has been provided above. The Council has now complied with its duties under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I hope this satisfies your request for a review.

If you wish to challenge the decision further, then you have a right to contact the Information Commissioner's Office as follows:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113 Fax: 01625 524510
www.ico.gov.uk/complaints.aspx

Yours faithfully



Elizabeth Wild
Principal Solicitor