

In case of enquiry contact **Alistair Wilson**  
Direct dial 01223 457000  
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Richard Taylor <request-272257-640b36be@whatdotheyknow.com>

Friday, 03 July 2015

Dear Mr Taylor,

FOI request number 4050

Thank you for your recent Freedom of Information request as follows: -

Information requested:

*details of the current arrangement between Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council for the management by the City Council of County Council owned highway trees; including any list of trees excluded from the arrangements and any price list for works carried out under the arrangement.*

*amounts paid under the arrangements, and their predecessors, for 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 and the amount budgeted for/expected in 2015-16.*

*I expect the material requested may be inextricably linked with other aspects of verge maintenance. I'm happy for my request to be treated as if it refers to highway trees, as well as ditches and grass on verges if that makes it easier for the council to respond to.*

As the information you requested meets the definition of environmental information it will be dealt with under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, as permitted under Section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Regulations define "environmental information". This includes information relating to "built structures" to the extent that these are, or may be, affected by environmental elements; e.g. water or soil. The definition of environmental information also includes information concerning the state of the elements of the environment, such as air and atmosphere, water, soil, land, landscape and natural sites, as well as measures that might affect or are intended to protect those elements.

We have determined that the information you are seeking falls within the definition of "environmental information" as it relates to the state of the elements, and measures intended to protect them.

The City Council is obliged, as a matter of law, to take a view on which regime applies. If information falls within the scope of the Environmental Information Regulations, then the City Council cannot consider it under the Freedom of Information Act.

The Council only has to provide information that is in recorded form. The Regulations do not require the Council to create new information or find out the answer to a question.

In response to your request:-

There are two documents that set out the current arrangements to the management of the County Council trees, and these are namely:-

Cambridge City Council. (7/11/2000). The City Wide Arboricultural Strategy: 2000 – 2007, and

Cambridge City Council. (13/7/2004). Mid-period review of the City Wide - Arboricultural Strategy: 2004-2007. unpublished report to Environment Scrutiny Committee.

These two tree related documents set out the justification to maintain all trees within the City on a three year maintenance cycle. This approach was, and still is, deemed as cost effective and efficient.

This cyclical arrangement was facilitated by a Reverse Agency Agreement. The Reverse Agency Agreement was ended by letter and was to be renegotiated from 2011/12. These negotiations have never been concluded. The future arrangement for tree maintenance, grass cutting and other items contained within the Reverse Agency Agreement remain uncertain.

The County Council has indicated that it does not wish to enter into any substantive agreement until the outcome of Highway Strategic Review is known, as this is designed to address how highway services are delivered post 2016.

Year	Value
2012-13	£56,282.97
2013-14	£60,462.25
2014 -15	£62,176.00
2015-16	£50,000.00

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you are entitled to ask for a review. A request for a review should be addressed to

Mr Joel Carre,  
Head of Streets and Open Space,  
Mill Road,  
Cambridge,  
CB1 2AZ.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of an internal review, you are entitled to pursue an appeal to the Information Commissioner.

The Information Commissioner's address is:

Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,



Mr Alistair Wilson  
Streets and Open Space- Development Manager