

Thorne & Hatfield Moors Conservation Forum
request-220810-eba12ac6@whatdotheyknow.com

Contact: Peter Jackson
Tel: 01302 862931
Email: FOI@doncaster.gov.uk
Website: www.doncaster.gov.uk
Date: 19/8/2014

Dear Thorne & Hatfield Moors Conservation Forum

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 19th July 2014 for information about the Danum Drainage Board.

Notice under Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 - REFUSAL TO DISCLOSE INFORMATION

Decision:

After carefully considering your request, the Council has decided to refuse to disclose the information you have asked for under Section **22** of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Basis for decision:

This law allows us to refuse to disclose information through the Freedom of Information Act process which is "information intended for future publication". This is called an "exemption".

Why does the exemption apply in this case?:

In respect of the information you have requested regarding the Audit report on the Danum Drainage Commissioners, I can inform you that this report is as yet not complete with details due to be published in due course. As the information is due for future publication the Council believes that Section 22 information intended for future publication applies in this case. The Council believes that it is reasonable to withhold this information because the release at this time would be likely to impact on overall finalisation of this report and the risk of incomplete or inaccurate information being made available within the public domain.

This information is provisionally scheduled for release by the 30th September 2014 and will be available directly from JBA Consulting Ltd, part of the Shire Group, Clerks to the Danum Drainage Commissioners.

Public Interest Test:

Doncaster Council, Freedom of Information, Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU

This exemption is qualified and on that basis I have considered whether or not in this case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. In coming to a decision to maintain the exemption I have considered the following public interest factors in favour of disclosing the information:

1. The public interest of facilitating accountability and transparency in relation to the activities of the Danum Drainage Commissioners and recognise that the public scrutiny of this information is reasonable given its use of public funds.
2. The openness and transparency in the decision making process around such use of public funds.

Against that I have balanced the following public interest factors in favour of maintaining the exemption:

1. The importance of protecting the consideration of the information provided on a whole in that such scrutiny should be fully informed rather than through partial information only and it is important that any consideration is done without pre-conceived assumptions based on partial data.
2. The need to plan and manage the release of information into the public domain which may lead to an increase in the enquiries around this issue.

On balance I do not consider that the public interest outweighs the need to protect against the risk of incomplete and inaccurate information being made available within the public domain at this time.

Reviewing this decision:

You can ask us to review this decision. You do this by writing to:

Freedom of Information Officer
Doncaster Council
Civic Office
Waterdale
Doncaster,
DN1 3BU
e-mail: FOIAppeals@doncaster.gov.uk

You can apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision about our compliance or otherwise with the Freedom of Information legislation. Please contact the Commissioner for details on how to do this - telephone 01625 545700, address: Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Internet: <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/>

Yours sincerely

Peter Jackson
Internal Audit Manager

Doncaster Council, Freedom of Information, Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU