

Individual 4

From: Anthony Durham [REDACTED]

Sent: 12 April 2013 11:33

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Local newspapers consultation

I live in Greenwich, where we have a particularly outrageous example of a local "newspaper" being used for party political purposes. It is a weekly sick joke, full of sycophantic references to the local council leadership, and empty of serious criticism.

This "newspaper" is routinely justified with an argument that the council has a genuine need to advertise houses for rent, and certain other statutory obligations. That argument is invalid for two main reasons. First, our area of south-east London was served for many decades by a conventional (paid-for) local newspaper, which would be happy to print several pages-worth of adverts for the council, at what must infallibly be a lower cost than the council's own effort. Second, public information nowadays is mostly presented on the Internet, and the council's resources would be far better spent improving their data, and its availability to people without the skills or money to use the Internet easily.

I have seen council offerings from other parts of the country, which are monthly and genuinely politically neutral. By comparison, our council's efforts look downright offensive.

Anthony Durham  
[REDACTED]

This email was received from the INTERNET and scanned by the Government Secure Intranet anti-virus service supplied by Vodafone in partnership with Symantec. (CCTM Certificate Number 2009/09/0052.) In case of problems, please call your organisation's IT Helpdesk. Communications via the GSi may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for legal purposes.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Correspondents should note that all communications to Department for Communities and Local Government may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for lawful purposes.  
\*\*\*\*\*

16/05/2013

