
Ealing Council

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|-----------|----------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Your ref: | Our ref: | Extension: | Date: |
| | 19/1491 | 0208 825 8367 | 3rd December 2019 |

Dear Nikhil Prabhu,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INTERNAL REVIEW

Thank you for your request for an Internal Review which was received on 5th November 2019.

Your original request was received on 13th September 2019.

We responded on 31st October 2019 and stated that:

I am specifically looking for payments to suppliers who provide a service in Health and Social Care from 1st January 2019 - 31st August 2019.

This would include all suppliers falling under the categories:

- 1. Payments to suppliers who provide fostering and adoption services to the Council (including payments made to Independent Fostering Agencies and for in-house fostering)**
- 2. Payments to suppliers who provide care services to the council.
This would include suppliers who provide care under each of below**
 - a. Children's Residential/ Nursing Care Providers**
 - b. Adult Residential/ Nursing Care Providers**
 - c. Elderly Residential/ Nursing Care Providers**
 - d. Domiciliary Care Home Providers**
 - e. Supported Living Care Home Providers**
 - f. Care at Home Providers**
 - g. Providers who carry out Homeless Services**
- 3. Payments to suppliers who provide Special Education Services**

In particular I am looking for itemized transactions for suppliers from January 2019 to August 2019 - preferably in CSV format.

Your request has been assessed and the following information is provided in response:

We can confirm that Ealing Council holds the information within the scope of your request. However, to answer your request would exceed the appropriate cost limit.

Section 12 of the FOIA makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £450.

This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2.5 working days in determining whether Ealing Council holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

As information on payments to suppliers is not held in one location within the council, providing this information would involve the manual inspection of each individual payment to determine if this information can be provided as some of the information may hold Personal information, which would need to be redacted under Data Protection.

Due to the number of payments/files we would have to examine, we estimate that it will take Ealing in excess of 2.5 working days to determine appropriate material within the scope of your request, and locate, retrieve and extract that information for each of the months requested.

Therefore, we are unable provide the information requested between Jan 2019 and Aug 2019

Since our response to your previous FOI request, we are in the process of reviewing our approach to making this information available without full redaction and only redacting where required, such as Personal information.

Payment to supplier information is added to our website on a quarterly basis. Information held for previous months/years will need to be reviewed to ascertain if they can be revised and replaced on our website.

I have now taken the time to review your request.

We would like to advise that we are experiencing a variety of technical issues in order to provide the information that you have requested in a unredacted format.

Every effort is being made to collate and provide the requested information as the Local Authority have to provide details of the Councils spend for this Financial year including the months you have requested.

These technical issues have been escalated to Director level and are currently being investigated as a matter of urgency.

In order to collate and provide the information requested would involve checking each transaction across various systems to identify if the information can be unredacted as some of the information may possibly be identifiable information of an individual and would remain redacted under the Data Protection Act.

We aim to provide the information to you and publish on our website once these issues have been rectified.

Please note that this information may be subject to copyright. Supply of the information to you does not confer an automatic right to re-use it in a way that could infringe copyright.

We are unable to provide an estimated timeframe for this process to be completed at present as this process will take many staff hours to collate and provide and we are only able to do this once the found technical issues have been fixed.

If you remain dissatisfied by the outcome of the Internal Review you have the right to submit your complaint to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Lorraine Cox
Corporate Information Governance Manager