

## **Our reference: 20176 EIR**

Dear Mr Parnham,

Thank you for your request of 27 July 2022 in which you asked for information about Cowley LTN – July evaluation date.

It is the Council's view that to comply with your request would absorb enough of its staff's time to engage regulation 12(4)(b) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Regulation 12(4)(b) provides that a public authority is excepted from complying with a request for information if that authority considers that it would place a '*substantial and unreasonable burden on [its] resources*'.

It is the Council's estimate that to provide you with the information that you have requested would absorb approximately 27 – 30 hours of staff time. The Council considers that this represents a substantial burden and an unreasonable diversion of its resources from the provision of essential public services. The Council has estimated the time that it would take to deal with your request accordingly:

1. Searching vivacity date = 11 - 13 hours
2. Searching bus date = 2 hour
3. Searching journey time data = 9 - 10 hours
4. Searching air quality date and emails = 2 hours
5. Assembling, checking, and redacting data = 3 hour

TOTAL TIME= 27 – 30 hours

As you can see, to comply with your request would impose a substantial burden on the Council's resources. In reaching its decision, the Council also considered whether disclosure would be in the public interest.

### Arguments in favour of disclosure

1. That there is an explicit presumption in favour of disclosure;
2. Disclosure could further the understanding of, and participation in, public debate and
3. Releasing this information may promote transparency and increase public awareness;

### Arguments against disclosure

1. Committing a considerable amount of the Council's resources to answering this request would detract from the services that it provides in other areas;

2. That there is a need to ensure that public funds are applied effectively; and
3. The importance of the matter at hand does not constitute an overriding or exceptional reason for disclosure.

On this occasion, the Council finds that the public interest in refusing your request outweighs the public interest in complying with it.

#### Advice and Assistance

Thank you so much for your requests (Ref No: 20176 and 20260).

In accordance with the Council's duty to now advise and assist you, we would want to invite you to discuss these further with us at County Hall either on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 10am – 11am or 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 3pm – 4pm. Please RSVP your preferred time to us at [activetraveloxfordcity@Oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:activetraveloxfordcity@Oxfordshire.gov.uk).

#### Internal review

If you are dissatisfied with the service or response to your request, you can ask for an internal review as follows:

- Contact the Freedom of Information team in Customers and Organisational Development: [foi@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:foi@oxfordshire.gov.uk)
- Write to the Freedom of Information team at the FREEPOST address:

Freedom of Information Team  
Oxfordshire County Council  
FREEPOST RTLL-ECKS-GLUA  
Oxford OX1 1YA

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office,  
Wycliffe House,  
Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire,  
SK9 5AF  
Telephone: 0303 123 1113  
Website: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Please let me know if you have further enquiries. I would be grateful if you could use the reference number given at the top of this email.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Tiernan  
Project Manager

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