



request-901159-1ef6b19a@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr Hannigan,

Freedom of Information - Internal Review

I am writing in respect of your request dated 29 October 2022 for an Internal Review of your request under the provisions of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act. On behalf of the City Council, I would like to take this opportunity the delay in responding to your Internal Review request. I am grateful for your patience and that the delay did not cause you too much inconvenience.

When conducting Internal Review requests in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and as stated in our Internal Review Process, I consider:

1. Was the request handled promptly and within 20 working days?
2. Did we confirm the information was held?
3. Does the council hold any additional information which has not yet been released?
4. Was a reason given for why the request was refused?
5. Were any exemptions applied appropriately?
6. Was a charge wrongly applied?
7. The overall handling of the request

The review does not cover the content of the response itself.

‘What can’t you request a review about?’

‘Not liking the answer’ you have received. For example, a report shows that some repairs have been undertaken, but you don’t think the work has been completed properly. If you are unhappy with the implications of the information provided to you, we will put you in direct contact with the department concerned.

Your request

Requests to the City Council are shown in *italics*, responses from the City Council are shown in **bold**:

On 23 September 2022 you asked the following:

1. *When the scheme was conceived and by whom and which department.*
2. *Who authorised this event?*
3. *The projected and actual impact on local business and tourism.*
4. *The total cost of the entire project and number of working hours allocated to its planning and execution.*
5. *The projected and actual figures on the number of journeys saved with accompanying emissions data sets.*

On 11 October 2022 the City Council responded as follows:

1. World Car Free Day is an international event which is celebrated on 22 September every year. It is a LCC Highways & Transportation scheme and the event was organised with the assistance of LCC Culture Team. LCC have previously celebrated Car Free Day within the city, at Lark Lane and Wavertree. It was agreed to close part of The Strand this year to encourage motorists to give up their cars for the day and consider alternative sustainable forms of transport and demonstrate our commitment to support the city's goal in achieving Net Zero carbon by 2030.
2. The event was authorised by LCC Chief Highways Officer and Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency, Transport and Environment. The event also had full support from The Mayor, the Highways and Transportation Commissioner, senior leaders within the Council and the Liverpool City Region.
3. This was a one-day event to encourage people to consider switching to a car-free lifestyle to reduce pollution, improve health and help assist the Council's ambition to get to Net Zero by 2030 just less than seven years away. By replacing car trips wherever possible with walking, cycling and public transport can make a big difference. Consultation with businesses within the affected area commenced in August and advanced warning signs were installed on the highway two weeks prior to Car Free Day. The Liverpool BID Company were also consulted, and Businesses were informed of the closure and diversion routes. The projected and actual impact on local business and tourism are not known.
4. The estimated cost was approximately £36,000 and is funded by the income generated by the Voi e-scooter scheme. The actual hours spent on the project have not been recorded, however the event has been in planning since end of July 2022.
5. The average traffic volume on The Strand is 1,000 vehicles per hour in each direction from which have estimated that we have reduced CO2 emissions within the car free zone by approximately 1,000 kg during the road closure. Unfortunately, due to the breeze from the River Mersey and the need to monitor air quality over an extended period of time in order to obtain any meaningful data our Environmental Team advised against installing air quality monitoring equipment on The Strand to obtain actual data. It is worth noting that Liverpool City Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and celebrating a car free day event is one way to encourage and change people's behaviour to driving and support the city's goal in achieving Net Zero carbon by 2030.

On 29 October 2022 you requested an internal review of the above response:

I am writing to request an internal review of Liverpool City Council's handling of my FOI request 'Details of the "Car-free Day" held in Liverpool on 22/09/22'.

On 7 November 2022 the City Council offered to arrange a meeting with you to discuss the issues you raised:

We are sorry you are not happy with the response to your FOI request. The Chief Highways Officer Karen Agbabiaka and the Divisional Manager Danny Luu would be happy to meet with you to discuss any concerns either in person or via teams. If this is something that you would like to do, can you please contact Karen's PA (copied in) to arrange a mutually convenient date and time.

Internal Review response

Following my review of your request, I can confirm the following response to the considerations outlined above:

1, Was the request handled promptly and within 20 working days?

Yes, your original request, reference 13035758, was responded to within 20 working days.

2, Did we confirm the information was held?

Yes, the City Council confirmed it held the information you have requested.

3, Does the council hold any additional information which has not yet been released?

No, the City Council does not hold any additional information which has not yet been released. The City Council, on 7 November 2022, offered to arrange a meeting with you to discuss the issues you raised.

4, Was a reason given for why the request was refused?

Your request for information was not refused.

5, Were any exemptions applied appropriately?

No exemptions were applied.

6, Was a charge wrongly applied?

No charge was applied, I consider this aspect as not relevant.

7, The overall handling of the request.

Considering points 1-7 above I am satisfied with the City Council's handling of your initial request for information and no further action should be taken

This concludes the internal review. I appreciate your patience and trust this response is of assistance to you.

Should you remain dissatisfied following the City Council's internal review, you can refer the matter directly to the Information Commissioner.

Further information is available from the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office (ICO),
Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF
mail@ico.gov.uk (the ICO advise that this email is not secure)
www.ico.org.uk

We trust this information satisfies your enquiry.

Yours sincerely

P. Mountford

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Information Team

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