Upholding information rights



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Freedom of Information team Epping Forest District Council

By email to: foienquiries@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

29 January 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR)

Complaint from: Liam Lakes

Your reference: 1404

ICO reference: IC-82158-L4J8

The above individual has submitted a complaint to us about the failure by Epping Forest District Council (the Council) to respond to the following information request:

Dear Epping Forest District Council,

With regard to the council owned land to the North of Dowding Way, Waltham Abbey please provide all information you hold relating to the following:

- Information provided through the Land Promoter / Developer Survey 2017 (including but not limited to site ref: SR-1034-Z / SR-0061 / SR-0370);
- Information relating to informal agreements between the council and adjacent landowners to work together at this site;
- All other information dating from 1 Jan 2017 to present (including internal and external correspondence, emails, reports and meetings) relating to the council and council Estates Team concerning development of this council owned land.

Yours faithfully,

Liam Lakes

Action

We understand that this was responded to and section 14 of the FOIA was cited. However in your internal review on 25 November 2020, you advised that you are



no longer relying on section 14 and will respond as a matter of priority.

Please provide the complainant with a substantive response to this request that complies with the FOIA/EIR within **10 working days of the date of this correspondence**. Alternatively, confirm to us that you have already sent the complainant a response to this request.

In either case, please send a copy of your response to the complainant to the icocasework@ico.org.uk email address.

If we do not receive a response from you within 10 working days of the date of this email, we may issue a decision notice finding a breach of the FOIA/EIR and compelling you to respond to the request.

The Commissioner has published the following guidance, which you may find helpful:

- Time for compliance and the FOIA
- Time for compliance and the EIR
- Refusing a request

Our <u>Regulatory Action Policy</u> is published on our website. In the event of other, similar complaints the Commissioner may consider taking enforcement action under section 52 of the FOIA.

Finally, you should be aware that the Information Commissioner often receives requests for copies of the correspondence we send and receive when dealing with casework. Not only are we obliged to deal with these in accordance with the access provisions of Data Protection legislation and the FOIA, it is in the public interest that we are open transparent and accountable for the work that we do.

I have copied this correspondence to the complainant.

Yours faithfully,

Catherine Fletcher Lead Case Officer 0330 313 1912

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