



Elsbeth Grant

Information Management
Shire Hall
Warwick
CV34 4RL
Telephone 01926 412211
Email brucegreen@warwickshire.gov.uk

Please ask for Bruce Green

Our ref: 6931400

Your ref:

Date: 11th August 2021

Dear Elspeth Grant

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Your request for information has been considered by Warwickshire County Council under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I can confirm that some of the information you have requested is held by Warwickshire County Council. However, please be advised we are unable to provide all of the information you have requested.

This is because some of the information is not held by Warwickshire County Council.

Also, some of the information is exempt under Section 21 (Information reasonably accessible to applicant by other means) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

In addition, to provide some of the information would exceed the appropriate limit, as outlined in Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please see below for further details and explanation.

You asked us:

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Please provide under Freedom of Information:

1. The number of low, medium and high-rise residential buildings in your area (or your current / best estimate of them) covered by the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005?

This information is already available publicly via the Fire Stats published by the Home Office. Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service officers have provided the link below to the relevant area of the Gov.uk website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fire-prevention-and-protection-statistics>

Please note: We would consider that this information is exempt under Section 21(1) (Information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Although this documents are held by Warwickshire County Council; under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 Public Authorities are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible.

Please treat this response as a refusal notice under Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, for the document outlined above.

2. The total number of deficiency and / or enforcement notices served to the owners of these buildings relating to means of escape (Articles 14(2)(b) & 15 (1)(b)), since the 30th October 2019 to the date of this FOI?

3. The number of deficiency and / or enforcement notices served to the owners of these buildings specifically relating to the identification of vulnerable and disabled residents, and planning for their escape (Articles 14(2)(b) & 15 (1)(b)), since the 30th October 2019 to the date of this FOI?

4. Copies of the notices referred to in (3)?

This information is not held in a reportable field on our central recording system, and the only way to provide the level of detail required to answer questions 2, 3 & 4 would be to undertake a search and review of all of the relevant individual files and documents.

It has been estimated that this search and review would exceed the 18 hours set as an appropriate limit, as outlined under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Finding, retrieving and preparing information takes employees' time and consequently we are allowed to consider costs. If the cost exceeds the 'appropriate limit', based upon an hourly rate of £25, then the Local Authority can refuse to fulfil the request. For Local Authorities the 'appropriate limit' is set at £450 (which equates to 18 hours).

Therefore, we are not obliged to answer questions 2, 3 & 4 of your request. In not providing this information the Council is relying upon Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, whereby the Council is not obliged to comply with a request for information if the Council estimates that the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit.

Please accept this letter as a refusal notice in accordance with Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act, in respect of the information required to answer this part of questions 2, 3 & 4 of your request.

5. The fire authority's current policy covering the evacuation of disabled people from multi-occupancy buildings during a fire?

This information is not currently held by Warwickshire County Council.

The evacuation of multi-occupancy buildings would be covered in our High Rise SOP. Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service are currently in the final stages of rewriting the High Rise SOP following national consultation on the introduction of PEEP's (Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans) for people who live in high rise premises.

The new policy is currently in draft form and going through a checking process. It is expected to be completed and published later this year, most likely by November. Therefore, we would invite you to re-submit this part of your request at the end of November if you wish to do so.

Yours faithfully.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Information Management
Shire Hall
Warwick
CV34 4RL
inforights@warwickshire.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Phone: 0303 123 1113
Website: www.ico.gov.uk

I will now close your request as of this date.

Yours faithfully

Bruce Green
Information Rights Officer