

**My Ref:** IG-16652  
**Your Ref:**  
**Contact:** Freedom of Information Team  
**Email:** [FOI@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:FOI@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

**Freedom of Information Team**  
**Information Compliance**  
**Legal & Governance**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Loxley House  
Station Street  
Nottingham  
NG2 3NG

Requester

At contact address specified for request number above

16 September 2022

**Tel:** 0115 876 4376

**Email:**

[FOI@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:FOI@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

[www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

Dear Requester

### **Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act)**

The council has considered your request which was received on 24 August 2022 and our response to your questions is shown below.

*Request you to please provide me information regarding all transactions over £500 from 1st December 2020 to 31st July 2022. Please provide the data in a machine readable format (preferably CSV). As a minimum, please make sure to include the date, value and supplier/contractor of each transaction. Please also provide details on the procurement category of each transaction.*

On this occasion, the council has determined that some of the information from 1 December 2020 to 30 September 2021 is exempt from disclosure in accordance with section 21(1) of the Act as it is reasonably accessible to you by other means and publically available.

The council publishes our payments to suppliers online. Publication of these datasets forms part of Nottingham City Council's commitment to openness and transparency. These tables list all payments made by the council with trade suppliers in a particular month. The downloads list all relevant trade supplier payments excluding VAT, from 1 April 2011 onward. The files include; payment date, transaction number, supplier name, supplier postcode, expenditure category and net amount. You can use this published data to merge and sort and identify the relevant suppliers based on our total spend in the period requested.

<https://www.opendatanottingham.org.uk/dataset.aspx?id=21>

Unfortunately, Covid restrictions, reduction in resources to complete this work, and changes to our finance system have all impacted the regular publication of this data. In addition, due to the complexity of this data and the fact it includes Procurement Card transactions it takes several months to review and publish this data to ensure its accuracy and ensure it excludes any personal data. The data for October 2021 onwards is currently being reviewed prior to publication. The council has therefore



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determined that this information is exempt from disclosure in accordance with section 22(1) of the Act as it will be reasonably accessible to you by other means and publicly available, here:

<https://www.opendatanottingham.org.uk/dataset.aspx?id=21>

Section 22 of the Act provides an exemption for information that is intended to be published in the future. This information is exempt if the council holds the information, the council intends the information to be published at some future date and it is reasonable to withhold the information until its planned publication.

As the council are relying on section 22 of the Act, the council are required to carry out a Public Interest Test. This is a test to see whether the public interest in withholding the information is greater than in releasing it. The council acknowledge there is a public interest in our expenditure and our requirements to regularly publish this data. In this case however, the council feel it is in the best interests of the public to withhold information that is not published, as the council have already made a commitment to publish this data via Nottingham Open Data. In order to provide this information officers would have to prepare, extract and administer the requested information from reports. The data in question needs to be collated from many sources, reconciled, reviewed and cleansed to ensure no personal data is published (as many individuals are paid by the council including foster parents). Therefore, in order to answer your request officers would be required to carry out significant analysis and interpretation of data. The council does not feel it would be an effective use of officer time as the requested information is still to be collated, interrogated and approved prior to publication online.

Section 22 acknowledges that organisations must have freedom to be able to determine their own publication timetables. This protection is afforded whether it is the public authority itself or another individual, a company or another public authority, which intends to publish. This allows public authorities to deal with the necessary preparation, administration and context of publication. The council have committed to publishing this information on a monthly basis. Releasing information outside of the publication schedule for this dataset undermines the value of the council regularly compiling and publishing this information. For these reasons, the council feel it is appropriate in this case to maintain the exemption and withhold the information as it will be published at a later date.

The council has relied on sections 16, 21(1) and 22(1) of the Act. The council has provided you with advice and assistance by directing you to our webpages where you can find currently published spend data and where information from October 2021 will be published over the course of this year. Please accept this letter as a refusal notice issued in accordance with section 17 of the Act.

You are free to use any information supplied for your own personal use. If the information provided is marked as published under an [Open Government Licence](#) you are free to reuse it, subject to the licence terms. However, if the information is not published under an Open Government Licence and you wish to reuse it, for example, by publishing the information or issuing copies to the public you are required to request permission for re-use of this information under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005 (RPSI). Your RPSI request must be in writing and include your name and address for correspondence, and specify the information you want to re-use and the purpose you intend to use it for.

If you are unhappy with the response provided or with the handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review in writing stating the reasons for your dissatisfaction. Your request for an internal review should be made to the council within forty working days of the date of this letter. Please quote reference IG-16652 in all communications.

You can contact the Freedom of Information Team either by email: [FOI@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:FOI@nottinghamcity.gov.uk) or writing to the **Freedom of Information Team, Information Compliance, Legal & Governance, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG.**

If you remain unhappy after receiving the response to your initial complaint you can request an independent review from the Information Commissioner's Office at **FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF**. You may also contact the Information Commissioner's Office by telephone on 01625 545745 or by email at [mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team  
Legal & Governance  
Nottingham City Council