

Our ref: 6281767  
30 May 2019

**Ryan Jarvis**  
???

Account reference:request-572180-3080d869@whatdotheyknow.com

## **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Dear Sir/Madam

We can confirm that the information requested is held by Birmingham City Council. We have detailed below the information that is being released to you.

### **Request**

I am writing to respectfully access my rights in lieu of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and therefore make the following request:-

1. Please can you confirm whether you currently have any policy in which relates to the safety and security of parliamentary and local candidates in elections? If so, please provide a copy.
2. Details of the number of incidents reported to yourselves which relate to parliamentary or local candidates being assaulted or abused for the past three years? (This can include events relating to physical and non physical incidents).
3. Confirm whether the authority plans to provide advice and/or guidance on safety and security on which parliamentary or local candidates can access in the future?
4. Confirm that the authority takes it 'duty of care' towards local and parliamentary candidates seriously and if so provide details which confirm reasonable adjustments and/or steps have been taken to properly advise prospective candidates on such matters.

### **Response**

1. Please can you confirm whether you currently have any policy in which relates to the safety and security of parliamentary and local candidates in elections? If so, please provide a copy.

There is no formal policy although we recommend to candidates that they contact the police if they have any concerns about their safety or security as the police will be able to provide appropriate advice. We also recommend that they take advice from their Party (if not standing as an Independent candidate) .

2. Details of the number of incidents reported to yourselves which relate to parliamentary or local candidates being assaulted or abused for the past three years? (This can include events relating to physical and non physical incidents). We do not keep a record of this as it is recommended that any such incidents are referred to the police.

3. Confirm whether the authority plans to provide advice and/or guidance on safety and security on which parliamentary or local candidates can access in the future?

The running of an election is the responsibility of the Returning Officer and not the Local Authority. The Returning Officer will supply candidates with any guidance that has been provided/prepared by the police. In addition any additional information will be supplied to candidates at the time of nominations and at any relevant briefings

4. Confirm that the authority takes it 'duty of care' towards local and parliamentary candidates seriously and if so provide details which confirm reasonable adjustments and/or steps have been taken to properly advise prospective candidates on such matters.

The running of an election is the responsibility of the Returning Officer and not the Local Authority. Consequently the local authority has no "duty of care" to candidates. The Returning Officer will provide copies of any guidance provided by the police and will share any other relevant information. Candidates are also advised to seek advice from their Party (if not standing as an Independent candidate).

Please quote the reference number 6281767 in any future communications.

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 working days from the date this authority issued its initial response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Corporate Information Governance Team  
PO Box 16366  
Birmingham  
B2 2YY  
Email: [infogovernance@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:infogovernance@birmingham.gov.uk)

If you are still dissatisfied with the Council's response after the internal review you have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 5AF.  
Telephone: 01625 545 700  
Website: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

We will now close your request as of this date.

Yours faithfully

Corporate Information Governance Team

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