



Mr Oliver Staunton

Business Support
Resources Group
Warwickshire County Council
Shire Hall, Warwick, CV34 4RL
Email xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx

Please ask for Sarah Turpin

Our ref: 3564228

Your ref:

Date: 13 November 2018

Dear Mr Staunton,

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Your request for information has been considered by Warwickshire County Council under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and unfortunately, the County Council is unable to comply with it in full.

Q. I was wondering if I could please request details of payments made to pharmacies for locally commissioned NHS or private services, for example smoking cessation, emergency hormonal contraception, supervised consumption of medicines, & needle exchange services.

If you could kindly provide this in spreadsheet(s) format, with a breakdown by pharmacy (name and address), month, service, and payment, I would greatly appreciate it (if you also have the ODS code identifier for the pharmacy, then please kindly include this also). If possible, details of the most recent 12 months worth of payments.

A. Please see the below link to Warwickshire County Council Open data where you can find spend to suppliers over £500 which is published in line with Local Government Transparency code 2015.

<https://apps.warwickshire.gov.uk/OpenData/datasets>

We are unable to provide you with the information under £500 because it is deemed commercially sensitive under Section 43 Act.

After due consideration, the County Council considers that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

In accordance with section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 please treat this letter as a Public Interest Refusal Notice.

The exemption applied is Section 43 (2) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

The Council does recognise that there are argument(s) in favour of disclosure which are as follows:

- Transparency in respect of how the Council spends public money;
- Enabling public scrutiny in ensuring that the Council is securing the best use of public resources

Nevertheless, the Council considers that in all circumstances, on balance the public interest favours withholding some of the information at this time.

The reason for this is

Providing the details under £500 is deemed commercially sensitive information that an organisation or an individual could use to obtain a commercial advantage because pharmacies operate as private businesses within a competitive market.

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
xxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx

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.org.uk

I will now close your request as of this date.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Turpin
Programme Support Manager

