

Please reply to : Dominic Millen

E-mail : Dominic.millen@enfield.gov.uk

Phone : 020 8379 3398

Textphone :

Fax :

My Ref : FOI 17460/15

Your Ref :

Date : 01/10/2015

Dear Sir

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your emails of 7 and 10 September 2015 where you requested information about Public Rights of Way enforcement.

The information you requested is enclosed.

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 two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Theresa Dodd
Correspondence & Complaints Manager
Regeneration & Environment Department
PO Box 52
Civic Centre
Silver Street
Enfield EN1 3XE
Email – theresa.dodd@enfield.gov.uk

Ian Davis
Director – Regeneration & Environment
Enfield Council
Civic Centre, Silver Street
Enfield EN1 3XY



Phone: 020 8379 1000
Website: www.enfield.gov.uk

② If you need this document in another language or format call Customer Services on 020 8379 1000, or email enfield.council@enfield.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Dominic Millen

London Borough of Enfield, B Block North, Enfield Civic Centre, London EN1
Dominic.millen@enfield.gov.uk
020 8379 3398

Request for Information

Customer By Email (Vincent Aleck) - 07/09/2015 12.16 PM Dear Enfield Council,

Can you please provide me with statistics relating to enforcement of public rights of way in the last 5 years (broken down by year)?

1 how many requests for enforcement action have been made by the public in the last 5 years?

None recorded.

2 how many distinct public rights of way have been identified in these requests?

See response to 1.

3 what and how many enforcement actions have been taken in response to these requests, and how many distinct rights of way did these cover?

See response to 1.

4 what and how many enforcement actions have been taken that did NOT originate from a request from the public, and how many distinct rights of way did these cover?

None recorded.

5 what is the current status of each of the enforcement actions listed in the 2 categories 3 and 4 above?

See responses above.

Clarification – 10/09/2015

I'm sorry if my request wasn't clear. I'm not an expert in the law in this area, just a walker who's frustrated from time to time by blocked paths.

In my request, I mean where the council has taken action to fulfill their responsibilities to ensure public right of way are available for use by the public, as listed at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/public-rights-of-way-local-authority-responsibilities> :

The highway authority must:

- keep the surface of a public right of way in a fit state to be used
- make sure obstructions are removed
- maintain some bridges over natural watercourses, including farm ditches
- provide at least 25% contribution (on completion of the work to a standard the highway authority is satisfied with) to any landowners' costs in replacing and maintaining structures
- make sure there are no notices that prevent or discourage the use of a public right of way
- add signs where a public right of way leaves metalled roads
- make sure the public's rights to use a public right of way are protected
- make sure landowners carry out their duties, and take action if they don't

By "Enforcement action" i mean the last of these i.e. "make sure landowners carry out their duties, and take action if they don't" - I'm assuming that the council doesn't need to take enforcement action themselves and that the council is fulfilling its obligations without taking itself to court! So i guess some examples might be about actions that the council has taken to do the following on public rights of way over private land:

- clear an obstruction
- enforce the provision of an "adequate surface"
- require other changes, such as replacing a fence with a gate, style etc.

Of course, my examples are not an exhaustive list - the request is to find out what you have done, and whether it was via a letter which was responded to, whether you needed to take legal action (court), were costs awarded etc.