

Our reference: 20642 EIR

29 November 2022

Dear Mr Soper,

Thank you for your request of 10 November 2022 in which you asked for the following information:

Across Oxfordshire over the last 10 years can you please give me a list of all the roads which have had their speed limits reduced? Please give the name of the road, the previous speed, the new speed, and the date that the change was made.

It is the Council's view that to comply with your request would absorb enough of its staff's time to engage regulation 12(4)(b) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Regulation 12(4)(b) provides that a public authority is excepted from complying with a request for information if that authority considers that it would place a '*substantial and unreasonable burden on [its] resources*'.

It is the Council's estimate that to provide you with the information that you have requested would absorb approximately 52 hours of staff time. The Council considers that this represents a substantial burden and an unreasonable diversion of its resources from the provision of essential public services. The Council has estimated the time that it would take to deal with your request accordingly:

1. Searching through and pulling out relevant information: 156 notices of making and traffic regulation order(s) @ 20 minutes per NoMs / TROs = 52 hours

As you can see, to comply with your request would impose a substantial burden on the Council's resources. In reaching its decision, the Council also considered whether disclosure would be in the public interest.

Arguments in favour of disclosure

1. That there is an explicit presumption in favour of disclosure and
2. Releasing this information may promote transparency and increase public awareness

Arguments against disclosure

1. Committing a considerable amount of the Council's resources to answering this request would detract from the services that it provides in other areas;
2. That there is a need to ensure that public funds are applied effectively; and
3. The importance of the matter at hand does not constitute an overriding or exceptional reason for disclosure.

On this occasion, the Council finds that the public interest in refusing your request outweighs the public interest in complying with it.

Advice and Assistance

In accordance with the Council's duty to now advise and assist you, might I suggest that you consider amending your request to narrow its scope.

For instance, within the requested time frame we can provide you with copies of all the 'Notices of Making' and the relevant Traffic Regulation Orders, which would allow you to pull out the relevant/requested information.

Internal review

If you are dissatisfied with the service or response to your request, you can ask for an internal review as follows:

- Contact the Freedom of Information team in Customers and Organisational Development: foi@oxfordshire.gov.uk
- Write to the Freedom of Information team at the FREEPOST address:

Freedom of Information Team
Oxfordshire County Council
FREEPOST RTLL-ECKS-GLUA
Oxford OX1 1YA

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Website: www.ico.gov.uk

Please let me know if you have further enquiries. I would be grateful if you could use the reference number given at the top of this email.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Shickle
Group Manager - Traffic & Road Safety
Environment & Place
Oxfordshire County Council
Email: tim.shickle@oxfordshire.gov.uk
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk