

Information Resilience and Transparency

Please ask for: Carly Wattle FOI Reference: 4464965 Phone: +443000417061

Email:

Date: 14 February 2019

Dear Ms Charlesworth

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000, relating to Roundabouts. Please accept my sincerest apologies for the delay in responding to you; I appreciate that the Council have not complied with statutory timescales on this occasion. Please see the response provided below:

	2016	2017	2018
How many roundabouts are on the list of roundabouts with advertising boards, split into district/borough.	97	121	120
Please see table below for district split. What was the total amount paid by the	£75,177.49	£81,130.61	£72,832.01
companies that advertised on the roundabouts.	213,111.43	201,130.01	272,032.01
The actual amounts paid by the companies for advertising on the roundabouts is commercially sensitive so by disclosing these costs would reveal information about advertising rates that are commercially sensitive and if released into the public domain, would be prejudicial to the commercial interests of Commercial Services, the advertiser and ultimately the Council in terms of income generation; this would hinder fair competition by giving rival companies an unfair advantage. The exemption relied upon here is specifically s43(2) which states that "Information is exempt 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)." We consider the public interest is best served by promoting a competitive market operating on a level playing field and therefore public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure on this occasion.			
The figures disclosed are the net amounts received by Commercial Services for managing the scheme and after deducting maintenance costs for landscaping works on the sponsored roundabouts, as stated in c) below.			
Commercial Services administers this scheme on behalf of KCC.			
From the figures provided in b, how much was spent on grass cutting and landscaping work e.g. pruning, mulching, planting out, weeding.	£24,291.25	£43,515.84	£53,899.72
The figures provided relate to the expenditure Commercial Services incurs on providing maintenance/pruning on the sponsored roundabouts.			

Does the provider you use to find companies who want to advertise on the roundabouts provide a turnkey service i.e. also carry out the grass cutting and landscaping etc.

No.

If not, do you use one contractor or several.

Commercial Services uses its in-house Landscape Services Team to carry out the maintenance / pruning as stated in c).

When do the grass cutting and landscaping etc contract/s come up for renewal.

Commercial Services uses its in-house Landscape Services Team to carry out the maintenance / pruning as stated in c).

Will they be advertised for tender? I look forward to receiving the information.

There are currently no plans to put this work out to tender.

Number of Roundabouts with advertising boards, split into districts

	2016	2017	2018
Ashford	20	21	19
Canterbury	17	16	15
Herne Bay	7	6	7
Whitstable	7	7	7
Dartford	3	5	3

Gravesham	6	11	11
Maidstone	10	10	10
Shepway	11	11	10
Swale	-	10	15
Tonbridge & Malling	7	8	8
Thanet	9	16	15
TOTAL	97	121	120

If you are unhappy with this response, and believe KCC has not complied with legislation, you have 40 working days from the date of this response to ask for a review. You can do this by following our complaints process; details can be found at this link https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/contact-us/complaints-and-feedback#tab-7 on our website. Please quote reference 4464965.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you can appeal to the Information Commissioner, who oversees compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Details of what you need to do, should you wish to pursue this course of action, are available from the Information Commissioner's website http://ico.org.uk/concerns

Yours sincerely

Carly Wattle Information Access Officer