

Our ref: 569434

6 December 2017

Emmanuelle L
???

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

I can confirm that the information requested is held by Birmingham City Council. Please see our response below:

1. The number of companies accused of selling banned substances in skin bleaching products: between 2016 ' 2017, 2015 ' 2017, 2012- 2017 and as long as records have been kept.

Birmingham City Council has estimated that it will cost more than the appropriate limit to proceed with this part of your request.

Our records do not have a specific code to allow us to retrieve complaints specifically relating to skin bleaching products. To facilitate your request would require an Officer to search manually through approximately 115 worksheets that at present are found under a general code of product safety and record separately those which relate to skin bleaching products. It is estimated that this would take approximately 10 minutes per worksheet which equates to over 19 hours of Officer time.

The appropriate limit specified in the regulations is £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information for the full request.

Consequently, the Council is not obliged by section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to respond to your request.

2. The number of companies prosecuted and fined for selling banned substances in skin bleaching products: between 2016 ' 2017, 2015 ' 2017, 2012- 2017 and as long as records have been kept.

Regulation and Enforcement

Place Directorate
Birmingham City Council
PO Box 16586
Birmingham
B33 3EH

Tel: 0121 303 9361

Please note the figures included in the table below are taken from prosecution cases where a wide range of products including skin bleaching products were included in the prosecution file.

2012	2
2013	5
2014	3
2015	2
2016	0
2017	1

3. The overall amount of fines and costs from the prosecutions of the sale of banned substances in skin bleaching products between 2016-2017, 2015-2017 and 2012-2017 and as long as records have been kept.

The amount of fines and costs in relation to all Regulation and Enforcement cases can be retrieved through our Licensing and Public Protection Committee at the link provided below. As mentioned in Q2 the cases included have not been solely for the supply of skin bleaching products but instead the fines and cost are in relation to the sale of a wide range of products and include skin bleaching products. Consequently it would be misleading to provide these figures in this context requested.

All Information relating to prosecutions and fines are available through our Licensing and Public Protection Committee. To access click the link below: <https://birmingham.cmis.uk.com/birmingham> - (Select Menu – Committee – Regulatory – Licensing and Public Protection Committee)

4. The name of the specific illegal skin bleaching products seized from those prosecuted for selling illegal bleaching products: between 2016 ' 2017, 2015 ' 2017, 2012- 2017 and as long as records have been kept.

Below is a list of some of the skin bleaching products seized during the requested period, however this is not an exhaustive list as a manual examination of each file as detailed in response to Q1 would be required to fully answer this question.

Caro Light Beauty Lotion
Caro Lightening Bdy Cream
Caro Light Lightening beauty Lotion
Diva Maxi Tone Fade Milk

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Caro Light lightening Beauty Soap
Blesso Crème Bleach
Stillmans Skin Bleach Cream
Modi Girl Extra Strength Crème Bleach
Olivia Herbal Bleach Crème
Olivia Crème Bleach
Peach Crème Bleach
Olivia Aloe Vera Crème Bleach
Face Fresh whitening soap

Please quote the reference number 569434 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 two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Corporate Information Governance Team
PO Box 16366
Birmingham
B2 2YY

Email: xxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx

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

I will now close your request as of this date.

Yours faithfully

Regulation and Enforcement FOI Team

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