



Dear Josie Mullen

Freedom of Information Request 4877089

Thank you for your recent request. Your request was actioned under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in which you requested the following information –

[1] How many units in St John's Market are currently occupied by traders ?

[2] In 2017 Liverpool City Council stated that traders in St John's Market would have their rents reduced by 50% / or free rent for a certain amount of time. What is the total amount of rent lost to the Council through this scheme

[3] What is the total amount of Service Charge lost through this scheme?

Response:

Liverpool City Council would firstly take the opportunity to apologise for the delay in responding on this occasion. By way of context and as you will be aware, Liverpool City Council in common with all other public authorities in the UK, Europe and worldwide have, since March, been dealing with and responding to the Coronavirus pandemic. The introduction of substantial Government restrictions well before the submission of your request have had wide reaching and ongoing impacts being felt across society. These impacts specifically affected all Service Areas of the City Council as Officer resources and personnel are diverted to supporting the most vulnerable residents of this city.

Specifically, from early March, direct impacts were being seen for the City Council in terms of staff absence due to symptoms of or self-isolation due to Coronavirus as well as significant and substantial increases in demand for those Services which specifically support children, the elderly and the most vulnerable residents across Liverpool.

In light of the above factors, Officers from early March were gradually and in increasing numbers assigned to different Service Areas to ensure continuity of service, provision and support for children, the elderly and the most vulnerable residents across Liverpool as indicated above.

This impacted considerably on the ability of colleagues to identify, retrieve and collate information, as well as the absence of relevant Officers whose knowledge informs the preparation and content of responses whilst resources are focussed on the ongoing pandemic.

With the above factors in mind, we greatly appreciate your patience and understanding for the delay on this occasion.

Turning now to the specifics of your request. Our responses to this request are as follows –

1. There are currently 56 traders occupying 83 spaces.
2. After reopening following investment in its infrastructure the market faced difficulties in attracting footfall back post investment. It is important to note that the trading

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challenges faced by the market are not unique to St Johns Market but reflect the overall decline in high street retail that the UK has witnessed over the past few years. In response to that difficulty, and in order to support the local traders, the Mayor of Liverpool instigated a number of initiatives in order to support the market including a rent free period of trading. The rent foregone by The Council since April 2019 (when it took over the running of the market from Liverpool Markets Limited) is £482,327.78. Prior to the impact of Covid-19 the market had begun to return to a healthier footfall and attract a much larger and wider number of traders.

3. The service charge foregone by the Council over the same period is £438,260.90.

This concludes our response.

The City Council will consider appeals, referrals or complaints in respect of your Freedom of Information Act 2000 and you must submit these in writing to Informationrequests@liverpool.gov.uk within 28 days of receiving your response. The matter will be dealt with by an officer who was not previously involved with the response and we will look to provide a response within 40 days.

If you remain dissatisfied you may also apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision about whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Information Commissioner's website is www.ico.gov.uk and the postal address and telephone numbers are:- Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 123 1113. Email – mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk (they advise that their email is not secure)

I trust this information satisfies your enquiry.

Yours sincerely

A Lewis

Angela Lewis
Information Team