

Date: 8th October 2020

Mr John Simpson

request-679013-24a520ab@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Ref: 200625/F3a

Email: foi@blackpool.gov.uk

Dear Mr Simpson

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information you requested on 22/07/2020. Please accept my apologies for the delay in this response.

I wish to advise you that some information cannot be disclosed as exemptions apply.

A copy of the information you requested is shown below against the questions you raised.

What is being done about Stanley Park lake? I request publication of all reports the Council have commissioned in to the lake in the last 5 years, specifically with reference to the weed that is growing throughout the lake and the impact on wildlife in the lake. I also want to know what the Council's plan for the weed is, and if/when it will be removed.

Please see attached daft report in relation to this request.

Blackpool Council is currently investigating funding streams to enable the silt removal works to be undertaken. As highlighted in the report this is an extensive piece of work and requires specialist contractors and significant funds to undertake. In the short term, as with previous years, the floating pond weed will be removed by a floating boom when possible, however this is reliant on a period of calm weather to operate the boom from the banks.

Where some of the information has been withheld because an exemption(s) applies, I have described the exemption and reason below.

The exemption(s) applied:

Exemption – Section 40 – Personal Information

Section 40(2) applies because the information requested is caught by the definition of personal data found in the Articles of GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018.



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To expand further, names have been removed as they relate to individuals, not a company. Disclosure of this information would be likely to breach the principles of the Articles of the GDPR and associated sections of the Data Protection Act 2018. As this is an absolute exemption we are not obliged to undertake a public interest test.

Exemption - S43(2) - Commercial Interests

The information caught by this exemption constitutes commercial information that includes, but not exhaustively, specific pricing schedules for undertaking work.

We have considered the public interest in disclosure and it is the Council's view that disclosure of this information would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the company, causing it substantial harm and weakening its position in a competitive market. We have also considered the Council's position and whilst we acknowledge that the public may have an expectation of transparency in decision-making and how we procure services, they also have an expectation that we are able to do so in a competitive manner which would be prejudiced and restricted if we were to disclose a company's commercial information or cost models that are offered specifically to us. Therefore it is the Council's view that the public interest does not outweigh the public interest in maintaining this exemption on this occasion.

Please be aware that any commercial use or other use such as publication or sale may be a breach of copyright under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 unless you obtain the copyright holder's prior permission. Not all of the information that the Council supplies to you that is subject to copyright, will be the Council's copyright. You should seek consent from the Council or the copyright holder as appropriate. If you wish to reuse the information supplied you should contact the Council for advice on this.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request you may ask for an internal review and you should submit this in writing to: FOI Internal Review, Blackpool Council, Town Hall, Blackpool, FY1 1AD. Your request for internal review should be submitted within 40 working days of receipt by you of this response.

If you are not happy with the outcome of the review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. You can contact the Information Commissioner at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF, (www.ico.org.uk).

If you have any queries about this letter you can contact me, or write to: FOI, Town Hall, Blackpool, FY1 1AD, or email us at FOI@blackpool.gov.uk. Please remember to quote your reference number when you contact us.

Yours sincerely

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