

19th August 2015

Mr Peter C Bell
request-286070-90f02af8@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Ref: 150746/F3/F18
Direct Line: 01253 476634
Email: foi@blackpool.gov.uk

Dear Mr Bell

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

I am writing to inform you that after reviewing your request for information we are only able to provide part of the request, some of the request will not be processed because the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate limit' as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

You asked to Council;

a) How many complaints has the Council received in respect of properties where one potential response to the complaint would be the issue of a section 215 notice or the issue of a warning letter prior to the issue of a section 215 notice

2010 - 84 poor condition complaints received

2011 - 196 poor condition complaints received

2012 - 174 poor condition complaints received

2013 - 130 poor condition complaints received

2014 - 154 poor condition complaints received

01/01/2015 to 17/08/2015 - 169 poor condition complaints received

b) How many warning letters were the Council minded to issue

In accordance with s.17 of the Act this is a refusal to respond to this question

c) How many warning letters were issued

In accordance with s.17 of the Act this is a refusal to respond to this question

d) How many section 215 notices has the Council issued

2010 – 25 x s215 notices issued

2011 – 30 x s215 notices issued

2012 – 31 x s215 notices issued

2013 – 42 x s215 notices issued

2014 – 14 x s215 notices issued

01/01/2015 to 17/08/2015 - 13 x s215 notices issued

e) Of those section 215 notices issued, how many have been appealed

2010 – 3

2011 – 2

2012 – 1

2013 – 0

2014 – 1



Deputy Chief Executive's Dept.
ICT Services
PO Box 4
Blackpool, FY1 1NA

Contact
T: (01253) 477 477

www.blackpool.gov.uk

01/01/2015 – 17/08/2015 - 0

f) What is the current status of the section 215 notices issued (resolved/outstanding/appealed/ etc)

2010 –

- **21 complied with;**
- **2 withdrawn;**
- **2 outstanding.**

2011 –

- **25 complied with;**
- **2 withdrawn;**
- **3 outstanding.**

2012 –

- **26 complied;**
- **5 outstanding.**

2013 –

- **23 complied;**
- **19 outstanding.**

2014 –

- **7 complied;**
- **7 outstanding (2 referred for prosecution).**

01/01/2015 – 17/08/2015 –

- **3 complied;**
- **10 outstanding.**

g) What is the Council's budget in respect of section 215 notices for each year and what was the expenditure actually incurred for each year

This information is not held

h) How many days of officer's time has been taken up considering and dealing with section 215 notices and consideration of matters where a section 215 notice may be an appropriate response

This information is not held

i) Was the issue of section 215 notices subject to the Scheme of Delegation for each of those years, and if so, to whom was the power to issue section 215 notices delegated

Service of s215 notices is delegated to the Service Manager and the Planning Enforcement Manager.

j) Has the Council at any time in committee or sub-committee debated or considered its policy on section 215 notices and could you provide copies of any minutes where a section 215 notice is mentioned

S215 notices are dealt with by the Planning Enforcement Team which sits in the Public Protection Department (separate from Planning) with delegated powers. As such, Planning Committee are not involved in the process



k) Please provide a copy of the Council's currently agreed policy on section 215 notices and the date and copies of the minutes of the meeting where this policy was adopted.

We work with the Department's Enforcement Policy (need to check if this can be divulged?)

l) Please provide a copy of the Planning Enforcement register for each of the last five calendar years and the year to date.

The Planning Enforcement register is available online via our website (www.blackpool.gov.uk)

You may wish to refine and resubmit your request so that it reduces the cost to within the appropriate limit. For example, agreeing to a shorter time period or reducing the number of questions in your request. Please contact me if you would like advice on how to do 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, PO Box 4, Blackpool, FY1 1NA. 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, PO Box 4, Blackpool, FY1 1NA, or email us at FOI@blackpool.gov.uk. Please remember to quote your reference number when you contact us.

Yours sincerely

Information Governance Team

