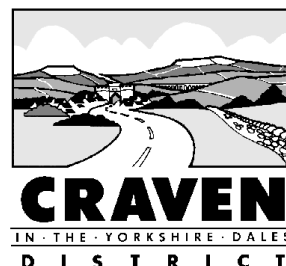


1 Belle Vue Square
Broughton Road
SKIPTON
North Yorkshire
BD23 1FJ



Mr Wilde
request-413736-2da979ca@whatdotheyknow.com

From: Freedom of Information Officer
Telephone 01756700600
Email: accesstoinfo@cravendc.gov.uk
Our reference: Fol 2017/171
20 July 2017

Dear Mr Wilde,

Thank you for your request for information which was received by the Council on 22 June 2017. We have treated your request in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations ('the Regulations'), rather than the Freedom of Information Act as you requested.

You asked whether the Council's Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) are indexed in digital form, and if so you wanted to be supplied with a copy of all the data from the databases held.

Council's response

The Council is keen to demonstrate its responsibility in accordance with Regulation 4 (1) (a) to progressively make environmental information available, including publishing a full list of TPOs. However, the TPOs for the District are not currently indexed, and therefore a list of these is not available in digital format. Many of the TPOs date back to the 1950s, and while there is work currently underway to identify and index all the TPOs and publish this information on the Council's website (notwithstanding that Regulation 4(2) does not require the Council to do this in respect of information collected prior to 1 January 2005), this exercise is thus far incomplete, and at the time of writing we do not have a date for publication.

Because the information that you have requested constitutes information that is still in the course of completion, or is unfinished, or is incomplete data, the Council is unable to comply with your request on this occasion, in accordance with Regulation 12 (4) (d).

As the exception provided in Regulation 12 (4) (d) is 'qualified', in accordance with Regulation 12 (1) (b), I have considered the public interest. There is a public interest in the Council being completely transparent in providing all the information that it holds. However there is also a public interest in ensuring that information that is published is complete and accurate. In order to ensure that objective, as well as the need to identify and check whether the Council holds the information, there is a necessary process of scrutiny and checking that has to be applied, so that members of the public can be assured that published information is complete, accurate and reliable, particularly in relation to important environmental matters.

After considering the above factors, the Council has concluded that the overwhelming public interest lies in maintaining the exception set out in Regulation 12 (4) (d).

I am sorry that the information that you have requested is not currently available, however when it is published, it will be placed on the Council's on-line maps via the following weblink:

http://maps.northyorks.gov.uk/connect/analyst/?mapcfg=cdc_general

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by emailing accesstoinfo@cravendc.gov.uk or by writing to the Freedom of Information Officer, Craven District Council, Belle Vue Square, Broughton Road, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 1FJ. Any request for a review should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner's Office can be contacted at the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Website: <https://ico.org.uk/>

Yours sincerely,
Sent by email

**Freedom of Information Officer
Craven District Council**