

Mr C Marshall

By Email: request-702148-7d6c80cd@whatdotheyknow.com

Corporate Services Directorate

PO Box 100, Civic Centre
Sunderland SR2 7DN

Telephone: 0191 520 5555

Web: www.sunderland.gov.uk

Date: 18th December 2020

Our ref: PB/80369

Your ref:

This matter is being dealt with by:

Peter Bracken, Solicitor, Law and Governance, Commercial Development Directorate, PO Box 100, Civic Centre, Sunderland, SR2 7DN. Telephone Number: (0191) 5611117

Dear Mr Marshall

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

REVIEW OF RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FOI 2969

REVIEW REFERENCE 2020/11

On 30th November 2020 you requested that the Council carry out an internal review of the response you received to your FOI request of 26th October 2020. In summary, the Council provided you with a number of responses and advised you that they did not hold the remainder of the requested information as it had been deleted in accordance with the Council's document retention schedules.

You asked for a review on the basis that, in your opinion, the Council's "Financial Management" data retention schedule requires documents relating to contracts to be retained for a period of six years and that at the date of your request six years from the end or expiry of the contract had not passed and that the Council should still hold this information.

In response to your request for a review of that decision, I have carried out a review as an officer who was not involved in the original response to your request. I have now completed my review and set out my findings below.

The Council's Retention Schedules

I have discussed the original request with Council Officer's and have been advised that the documents relating to the Service Level Agreements were destroyed in accordance with the Council's Retention schedule and would refer you to the 'contracts' section where it provides that for service level agreements the relevant retention period is for two years from the date the contract expires. <https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/13430/Retention-Schedules->

Accordingly, my first finding is that the Council had correctly destroyed the requested documentation in accordance with its retention schedule relating to documents in connection with Service Level Agreements.

Response to your request for a review

Having considered your request for a review of the responses that you were provided with, my findings are that the Council does not hold the information that you requested and correctly responded to your request for information.

Outcome of Review

Complaint – Not upheld

If you are dissatisfied with this response, then you have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision as to whether the Council has complied with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act.

The information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Address: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Helpline: 08456 306060 or 01625545745

Fax: 01625 524510

Web address: www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Peter Bracken

Solicitor
for Assistant Director of Law and Governance