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Telephone: 0300 126 3000  
Email: [datarequests@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:datarequests@northnorthants.gov.uk)  
Our Ref: F0491  
Date: 07/09/21

Dear Sirs

**Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Thank you for your request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which we received on 08 August 2021. I can confirm that North Northamptonshire Council holds the information requested. Please find our response below:

**Your Request:**

*'We previously submitted a request regarding the travellers (Your ref F0365) and you responded on 06/08/21 ultimately that you have moved them on.*

*They did in fact just move a short distance along the same road.*

*Additionally the 2 vehicles used by the travellers are untaxed which would mean that they are uninsured.*

*The details have been passed to the police and no action appears to have been taken when the vehicles should have been seized.*

*Please provide copies of any documents/communications concerning this matter where the travellers have again encamped illegally and the council appear to be wasting tax payers money due to a lack of working in partnership permitting the travellers to commit offences including road traffic offences.*

*To save requesting an internal review for the previous request, please supply copies of all documents including emails between the police, council and any other persons who have communicated or raised concerns regarding this ongoing situation.*

*Lastly please provide costs to date of dealing with the travellers including the clear up and legal costs.'*

**Our Response:**

Please be advised that for reference purposes only, I have attached the response to request ref F0365, as referred to above. In the interests of thoroughness, I will address each point you have raised in relation to this request, ref F0491, in turn below:

***We previously submitted a request regarding the travellers (Your ref F0365) and you responded on 06/08/21 ultimately that you have moved them on.***



***They did in fact just move a short distance along the same road.***

Please be advised that the legislation the authority abides by is The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. Within the Act, Sections 77 and 78 do not allow the authority to ban individuals from a wide area. This means that unfortunately it is possible for all groups to move along the same road. For instances whereby such action is necessary, the order granted by the court will request that groups move on from the location that they are occupying.

***Additionally the 2 vehicles used by the travellers are untaxed which would mean that they are uninsured.***

As this matter is one that falls outside of the Council's jurisdiction, unfortunately we are not in position to comment. We would advise that any persistent matters of this nature are pursued with Northamptonshire Police directly.

***The details have been passed to the police and no action appears to have been taken when the vehicles should have been seized.***

As per the above, unfortunately the authority is unable to comment on matters that fall within the jurisdiction of Northamptonshire Police.

***Please provide copies of any documents/communications concerning this matter where the travellers have again encamped illegally and the council appear to be wasting tax payers money due to a lack of working in partnership permitting the travellers to commit offences including road traffic offences.***

I can advise that the Northamptonshire Traveller Unit (NTU) are happy to confirm that the Council has fulfilled its duties and obligations in working alongside Northamptonshire Police. As any outstanding issues fall beyond the realms of our jurisdiction, regrettably, they remain beyond our control; and we would again advise that they are pursued with Northamptonshire Police directly.

For information, I am able to itemise the locations in question, alongside the actions taken:

#### **Layby off A6116 Lowick Rd/Aldwincle Junction**

The group arrived on 22 May 2021; and moved on further to a Direction to Leave Notice of 11 July 2021 being served.

Please be advised that in relation to internal communications, I can confirm that all written correspondence, inclusive of emails received from the public; as well as any written contact from external parties, is removed from the system at the point that the encampment moves on.

#### **Lowick to Aldwincle Road**

The group arrived on 11 July 2021; and moved on following the Direction to Leave Notice of 25 July 2021.



This was the next location the family moved to; albeit less than a mile from the previous location. The same procedure is undertaken: Northamptonshire Police, the local Parish Council and one local councillor were contacted, via the telephone, and provided with update as necessary. As such, there is no written record of this correspondence on file; and as per the above, the only documents retained are the site visit forms and any relevant legal papers.

### **Wadenhoe Road Wadenhoe**

Please note that the following information was confirmed as accurate as at 19 August 2021; and the point at which the Northamptonshire Traveller Unit were able to collate the information in order to address your request. We can acknowledge that there can be developments and progression with the passing of time, as well as changes in circumstances. As such, and reflective of this, we are able to advise of the following:

The group arrived on 25 July 2021; and monitoring of the encampment commenced. The local Parish Council and one councillor were informed of the situation and updated via a series of telephone conversations.

I can again advise that once the encampment has moved, whether voluntarily or via legal action, the Northamptonshire Traveller Unit remove all associated written communications and emails from file.

Considerations were underway with regards to serving a further Direction to Leave Notice, but no dates connected to this were known.

With regards to this third encampment, due to the passage of time, and should you wish for us to do, we will endeavour to provide you with an update on the situation independent of this response.

I must apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause you; but I trust you can appreciate that due to the continually developing nature of matters such as these; and in order to meet the deadline for this particular request, it has been necessary for us to pay consideration to the information available to us at the time that this request was made.

Please also note that in all instances, and in relation to references to 'relevant legal papers', we would deem these to be the Direction and Summons and Court Order should matters progress to court – which in all cases thus far, they have not.

***To save requesting an internal review for the previous request, please supply copies of all documents including emails between the police, council and any other persons who have communicated or raised concerns regarding this ongoing situation.***

In relation to this, I must reiterate that all documents and written correspondence are removed from file by the Northamptonshire Traveller Unit at the point that the encampment moves. As such, this information is no longer held by the authority.

With regard to persons who have 'raised concerns', please be advised that the complaints received have been made via the telephone. Whilst there is no recorded information on file in relation to these, it has been estimated that there have been no more than 2 or 3 complaints received in relation to each of the encampments thus far.

***Lastly please provide costs to date of dealing with the travellers including the clear up and legal costs.***



Please be advised that the legal costs in relation to the first two encampments are £27.18; and no legal action has been commenced at the third location as of yet (accurate as at 19 August 2021). The costs are of such because the authority were only required to serve a Direction to Leave Notice which was complied with; so no further legal or court costs ensued. We can further advise that clean up costs to date for the encampments have come in at £400; though unfortunately we have no way of ascertaining what degree of waste was already deposited on site; as the general public also contribute to the overall litter and rubbish.

Please be advised that above clean up costs have been provided to us by North Northamptonshire's Waste department; with the legal costs having been sourced from our Finance team. The Northamptonshire Traveller Unit management have awareness of these costs; and they are reviewed on a monthly basis.

Whilst the NTU do not retain email correspondence and written communication on file beyond the point that they deem necessary, there are some records in relation to each encampment that are kept. Please find attached the following documents, in relation to the first 2 encampments (and the extent of information available to us at the time of compiling your request response):

*Site Visit Reports (x2)*  
*Directions Served (x2)*  
*Plans (x2 – correspond with the Directions)*  
*Traveller Assessment (x2)*

Please note that in order to achieve compliance with UK GDPR requirements, redactions on the above listed documents have been carried out where necessary; and to protect all personal data.

I hope that the above has been of some assistance to your enquiries. As previously mentioned, if you wish for us to provide you with any update, or notify you of any change that may have taken place since your request was made, please do let us know and we will make every effort to assist where possible.

You may re-use the information under the terms of an [Open Government Licence](#).

I trust the above is helpful, however if you are dissatisfied with the way we have handled your enquiry or you are unhappy with the response provided, you have the right to request an internal review. You can do this by emailing [datarequests@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:datarequests@northnorthants.gov.uk) Please quote your reference number.

Please note a request for an internal review should be submitted no later than 40 working days from the date of receipt of this response. The Council is not obliged to accept a request for an internal review beyond this timeframe. A full response to your request for a review will be provided within 20 working days.

If you remain dissatisfied with the Council's internal review, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner (ICO). It is recommended that you contact them no later 3 months from the date of our final response, using the contact details below:

Information Commissioner's Office



# North Northamptonshire Council

Information Governance Team  
c/o Sheerness House  
41 Meadow Road  
Kettering NN16 8TL  
Tel: 0300 126 3000  
[www.northnorthants.gov.uk](http://www.northnorthants.gov.uk)

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Wycliffe House  
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Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>

Yours sincerely

Lucy DaSantos  
Information Officer