



**Directorate for Deputy Chief Executive  
Legal and Democratic Services**

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Mr Cooper  
Sent by email only

FOI Reference: 1653221  
31 May 2022

Dear Mr Cooper

**Environmental Information Regulations 2004**

This request is being handled under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004. Please see your request and our response below.

**Your Request:**

The automatic reply received from the DevCon mailbox devcontrol.av@buckinghamshire.gov.uk states "Our planning team is currently experiencing high volumes of work due to the unprecedented number of planning applications and enquiries being submitted."

Please provide the number of planning applications and enquiries (as described in the quote from the e-mail above) submitted per month for the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 for Buckinghamshire Council, Aylesbury Vale District Council, Chiltern District Council, South Bucks District Council and Wycombe District Council.

**Our Response:**

**a) Number of planning applications submitted:**

By way of introduction it might be useful to clarify how such planning application related information is stored. Local Authorities have a legal duty to make available certain details relating to planning applications as a public register (Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015). This is published online and in the case of the above applications can be viewed through the Council website using software called "public access".











We consider that Regulation 6(1)(b) of the EIR applies to the information requested because the information requested is already publicly available and easily accessible. Please see:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/view-and-comment-on-a-planning-application/>

Using the Advanced search function, you can search for applications by date as shown below:

#### Dates

Enter a date range (a start date and an end date) for the criteria that you are interested in. The date fields may be entered manually using the date format dd/mm/yyyy (e.g. 01/07/2019). Alternatively, click on the calendar button and pick a date.

Date Received:	<input type="text"/>		to:	<input type="text"/>	
Date Validated:	<input type="text"/>		to:	<input type="text"/>	
Date Actual Committee:	<input type="text"/>		to:	<input type="text"/>	
Decision Date:	<input type="text"/>		to:	<input type="text"/>	
Appeal Decision Date:	<input type="text"/>		to:	<input type="text"/>	

Under Regulation 6(1)(b) the Council is not required to make the information available in another form or format, as specified by an individual requestor.

It is qualified by regulations 6(1)(a) and 6(1)(b) in that a public authority does not have to meet the requester's preference if either it is reasonable for it to make the information available in another form or format or the information is already publicly available and easily accessible to the applicant.

In addition the government collect information regarding planning applications on a quarterly basis. Details of the number of planning applications received, approved or refused by each Local Planning Authority is published online by the government at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-planning-application-statistics>

#### **b) Number of enquiries received by mailbox [devcontrol.av@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:devcontrol.av@buckinghamshire.gov.uk):**

Buckinghamshire Council was formed from the amalgamation of four District Authorities and a County Council. At the point of formation the new Council was using the legacy IT networks and back office systems employed by the previous authorities. Over time projects are underway to move to a single new IT network and single back office software systems.

At present however the planning service is still partially working within the legacy arrangement. The email address identified is one used by the former Aylesbury Vale area. Any emails submitted to it are then passed on to the relevant officers or team for processing. Monitoring the number of general enquiry emails received is not a metric that is collected by the Council. The Planning Authority do not therefore hold this information requested [Reg 12(4)(a)].

Please quote the reference number 1653221 in any future communications.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original request and should be addressed to:

[access2information@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:access2information@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) or by writing to us at Information Management, Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF.

If you are still dissatisfied with the Council's response after the internal review you have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 5AF.  
Telephone: 0330 123 1113  
Website: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

We will now close your request as of this date.

Yours sincerely

Francisca Harpur  
Senior Information Request Officer