



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Further to your information request FOI/EIR 20/21-387 please find your question and our response below.

Request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please tell me:

1a) How many complaints have you received of alleged workplace covid-19 violations between 23/3/2020 to 20/1/2021?

Please provide a breakdown of complaints for 1A for each month from March 2020 to January 2021. e.g. Nov 2020: 21 complaints

1b) How many of these involved asking employees to attend the office/workplace when they claim they can reasonably work from home between 23/3/2020 to 20/1/2021?

Please provide a breakdown of complaints for 1b for each month from March 2020 to January 2021. e.g. Nov 2020: 21 complaints

2) Please provide specific details of the types of complaints you have received (If you have multiple complaints please provide as many as you possibly can)

3) How many complaints have resulted in further action in this time frame (March 2020– Jan 2021)

4) What further action has been taken? E.g. have any businesses been fined or closed down as a result of the breach?

Response:

East Cambridgeshire's District Council's Environmental Health department have logged over 760 service requests in the time period specified. All service requests are logged using one of two codes, either: Food or Health & Safety. Therefore, we would have to go through each service request individually to review if it was a complaint or a request for advice. We estimate to review and log the response would take approximately 2 minutes per service request, which would total over 25 hours and over the statutory time scale for responding to FOI requests.

We can advise you though that the answers to questions 3 & 4 are zero, as we have not taken any enforcement action to date.

In respect of those requests that were answered in full or partially and the total refused please take this as notice under FOIA, that we:

a) Consider the information as exempt from disclosure under the Act;

b) Claim exempt under sections of the Act:

Section 12 (4) (b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000

c) State why the exemption applies:

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows a public authority to refuse a request if the cost of providing the information to the applicant would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004:

Regulations 2004:

"Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit". The Regulations provide that the

appropriate limit to be applied to requests received by local authorities is £450 (equivalent to 2.5 days of work). In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

- (a) determining whether it holds the information,***
- (b) locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,***
- (c) retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information, and***
- (d) extracting the information from a document containing it***

If you would like to discuss ways of narrowing your request to bring it within the cost threshold, please don't hesitate to contact me.

You have the right to request an internal review of our decision to apply this exemption; details of how to do this are provided in the letter that accompanies this refusal notice.

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 20/21-387

If information has been refused please treat this as a Refusal Notice for the purposes of the Act.

If you disagree with our decision or are otherwise unhappy with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you may approach foi@eastcambs.gov.uk and request a review. A request for review must be made in no more than 40 working days from the date of this email.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under s50 of the Freedom of Information Act to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.