



# EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Further to your information request FOI/EIR 22/23-324 please find your question and our response below.

## **Request:**

I would like information about your council's lobbying work in relation to climate action for the Council Climate Action Scorecards.

In particular, please supply me with information relating to the following question:

Has the council written to or met with UK national or devolved governments to ask or lobby for climate action since 1st January 2019? Please provide some evidence of the most recent letter or meeting such as a copy of the letter or email sent, or the date, topic of meeting and position of the person that the meeting was held with.

This includes either asking for more powers and funding for local authorities to take climate action, or asking for the government to take further action themselves. This includes working with other local authorities to send joint letters or meetings to lobby UK or devolved governments, and includes both general climate action and calls for action on specific issues such as transport where climate change is mentioned as a motivating factor for taking action.

This includes if a cabinet member or other councillor has written to or met with the UK or devolved governments on behalf of the council.

## **Response:**

ECDC has formally declared both a climate crisis and a biodiversity crisis, and undertakes wide ranging measures to address these crises by reducing its own impacts and by encouraging and lobbying others to do likewise. In terms of lobbying, this is wide ranging both in terms of who, when and on what topic. It is not possible to break this down into a single theme of 'climate' or 'nature', or a single letter or meeting with another party. For example, lobbying for increased funds for cycling infrastructure is not purely for climate reasons, but for wider infrastructure reasons such as health and wellbeing. Having embedded within the organisation the need to make changes to address the climate and biodiversity crises, officers across the council are expected to take all opportunities to lobby whomever is appropriate on this matter. Our recent bronze award of Investors in the Environment illustrates this cross-council approach to tackling the crises. We do not, therefore, provide a single 'tick box' letter of evidence of lobbying, rather that the culture of the council is now one where encouraging others, lobbying others and taking direct action ourselves is embedded across the organisation.

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 22/23-324

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](mailto: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.