



Further to your information request FOI/EIR 23/24-521, please find your question and our response below.

**Request:**

1. How does the Council consult with the business community under Section 65 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and which organisations are contacted? Plus details of any meetings and who attended? With a timescale or the municipal years for 2021/22; 2022/23 and the current municipal year 2023/24.
2. What contact has the Council had with the Federation of Small Businesses during the period referred to under 1 above. Has the FSB been invited to participate in any relevant consultations and meetings, if so, what was the topic. Did the FSB respond?

**Response:**

1. No formal meetings are undertaken; an e-mail is sent to all companies on the Business Rates database asking for comments on the budget. A copy of the letter sent is included within this response. This is sent between the Council's Finance and Assets Committee and Full Council, so between late January and early February each year.
2. The Council does not have any specific communication with the Federation of Small Businesses.

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 23/24-521.

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.