

Report of the Executive Director

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REPORT 2021/22

1. Purpose of Report

To provide members with an overview of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests made to the Council.

2. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to NOTE the report.

3. Detail

The FOI Act came into force in 2000 and covers any information held by public bodies. The principle of the Act is that information on any subject held by any public body should be available to the public. The aim is to make public bodies more accountable and transparent. The right of access to information given in the Act includes both a right for members of the public to be told if the information exists, and if so a right to receive it, subject to certain exemptions. The most common exemptions used by the Council are listed below:

- Data Protection. This is information relating to a specific living individual.
- Commercial sensitivity. This is financial information relating to both the Council and its partners.
- Prevention of crime. This is information that could be used for fraud or the targeting of empty properties.

(This is not the full list of exemptions.)

This report outlines the performance of the Council in dealing with FOI requests and a breakdown of requests received to the various departments of the Council while the appendix provides a summary of the Council's internal FOI statistics.

The Council received a total of 782 FOI requests in 2021/22, marking an increase from the 742 requests received in 2020/21, and is required to respond to FOI requests within 20 working days. In 2021/22 96% of requests were responded to with the 20 working day time frame. Additionally, 96% of requests were responded to within the 20 working day time frame in 2020/21.

4. Financial Implications

Head of Finance Services were as follows:
There are no financial implications.

5. Legal Implications

These are already contained within the details of the report.

6. Background Papers

Nil.

FOI requests received

	Total	Chief Execs	Deputy Chief Execs	Executive Director	Liberty Leisure Ltd	Nottinghamshire County requests
Number of FOI requests	782 (742)	198	131	380	1	72

This table shows the figures for the overall FOI requests received in 2021/22 and the previous 2020/21 total is shown in brackets for comparison.

A further breakdown of the individual sections is provided below.

Chief Executive's Department

Service Area	Total number of requests
Housing	42
Private Sector Housing	10
Environmental Health	66
Public Protection	13
Human Resources	5
Licensing	10
Legal Services	12
Planning	40

Deputy Chief Executive's Department

Service Area	Total number of requests
Revenues and Benefits	82
Finance	8
Property Services	18
Contracts	23

Executive Director's Department

Service Area	Total number of requests
Waste, Recycling, Parks and Environment	51
Elections	3
Administration	1
ICT Services	17
Land Charges	271
Corporate Communications	2
Payroll	1
Information Governance	12
Health and Safety	3
Parking Services	13

Service Area	Total number of requests
Bereavement Services	6

Liberty Leisure

Service Area	Total number of requests
Leisure Services	1

Nottinghamshire County Council

Service Area	Total number of requests
Nottinghamshire County Council services	72

The Council is required to respond to requests for Nottinghamshire County Council Services (NCC) stating that Broxtowe Borough Council is not responsible for these services and that the requester should contact NCC.