

Report of the Interim Strategic Director

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REPORT 2018/20191. Purpose of report

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

2. 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 926 FOI requests in 2018/19, marking an increase from the 752 requests received in 2017/18, and is required to respond to FOI requests within 20 working days. In 2018/19 96.5% of requests were responded to within the 20 working day time frame.

This report is the first year of reporting the annual statistics relating to FOI requests to the Committee. More comparative data will be available for the next reporting cycle.

It should be noted that the increase in requests may have resource implications for the Democratic Services section should the trend continue. The section also has responsibility for servicing committees and complaints amongst other areas.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to NOTE the report.

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX

FOI requests received

	Total	Chief Execs	Deputy Chief Execs	Interim Strategic Director	Liberty Leisure Ltd	Nottinghamshire County request
Number of FOI requests	926	282	227	279	9	129

This table shows the figures for the overall FOI requests received by department. A further breakdown of the individual sections is provided below.

Chief Executive's Department

Department	Total number of requests
Housing	62
Private Sector Housing	21
Environmental Health	70
Public Protection	27
Whole Council	6
Human Resources	18
Licensing	18
Legal Services	5
Planning	51
Chief Executive's	4

Deputy Chief Executive's Department

Department	Total number of requests
Revenues and Benefits	49
Finance	28
Deputy Chief Executive	9
Property Services	43
Health and Safety	4
Bereavement Services	2
National Non Domestic Rates	72
Parking Services	20

Interim Strategic Director's Department

Department	Total number of requests
Waste and Recycling	58
Parks and Environment	4
Elections	14
Administration	3
ICT Services	41
Land Charges	139
Corporate Communications	11

Department	Total number of requests
Payroll	9

Liberty Leisure

Department	Total number of requests
Leisure Services	9

Nottinghamshire County Council

Department	Total number of requests
Nottinghamshire County Council services	129

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