



Further to your information request FOI/EIR 25/26-007, please find your question and our response below.

Request:

For the period covering the last 6 years from the date of this request, please provide the following:

1. A complete list of all suppliers, contractors, and sub-contractors who have received late payments beyond agreed terms.

For each entry, where available, please include:

- Business name
- Business address
- Contact email (where non-personal and appropriate)
- Invoice number(s)
- Invoice issue date(s)
- Payment due date(s)
- Actual payment date(s)
- Invoice amount
- Number of days late (if applicable)
- Whether statutory late payment interest and/or fixed compensation was applied

2. The total amount of late payment interest and/or compensation paid under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 for each year within this 6-year period.

3. Copies of any current council policies or internal procedures regarding payment terms and practices related to suppliers, contractors, and sub-contractors.

Response:

1. Please see attachment 1

The remaining information requested in Q1. is being withheld under Section 12(4)(b) – Manifestly Unreasonable.

In respect of those requests that are answered in full, partially or 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) Manifestly Unreasonable

c) State why the exemption applies:

12(4) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(a), a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that – (b) the request for information is manifestly unreasonable

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:

"12 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”.

East Cambridgeshire District Council believes compliance with this request would exceed the appropriate cost limit under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which is £450 or 18 hours of officer time. Our finance system does not easily provide access to the information requested and therefore each individual invoice would need to be manually checked and information extracted separately. There are a total of 311 invoices over the 6-year period requested that would need to be checked. Allowing 10 minutes per invoice this would equate to 51 hours and 50 minutes of staff time. We can provide the requested information at a chargeable basis of £25 per hour.

2. Zero

3. Please see attachment 2

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 25/26-007.

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.