



Further to your information request FOI/EIR 25/26-083, please find your question and our response below.

Request:

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information regarding trauma cleaning (also known as biohazard or crime scene cleaning) - which relates to professional cleaning services who clean up scenes where biohazardous substances are present and need to be disposed of safely (e.g. bodily fluids, needles etc). Please note that this applies to any property or area that your council manages, including housing, public parks, public buildings, highways etc.

1. Procurement/Allocation Process:

- a. How does the council allocate trauma cleaning jobs-e.g., is there a framework agreement, preferred supplier list, or competitive tendering process?
- b. What criteria are used to select and approve trauma cleaning companies?
- c. Please supply any relevant procurement policy or criteria documents (or links to where these are publicly available).
- d. Which companies does the council currently contract?

2. Trauma Cleaning services contracted:

- a. The number of cases where trauma cleaning was required in council-owned or council-managed housing stock, roads, public areas, or any area which is under the jurisdiction of your council from January 1, 2020, to the present, and within this:
 - i. The number of trauma cleaning jobs commissioned by the council (directly or via contractors) in the same period, and the total costs.
 - ii. The number of trauma cleaning jobs not commissioned by the council, and the total cost (if known)
 - iii. The types of jobs that the council did commission (vulnerable resident, serious crime scene etc)
 - iv. The reasons that the council did not commission trauma cleaning jobs

3. Complaints:

The number of complaints received by the council regarding trauma cleaning companies from January 1, 2020, to the present. Please provide a brief description of each complaint, including the date (year), nature of the complaint, type of complainant (i.e. resident, landlord) the company which was the subject of the complaint, and outcome/action taken (where available).

4. Health and Safety/Enforcement Action:

- a. Any incidents where a trauma cleaning company was found to be in breach of health and safety, environmental health, or public health standards within your area during this period.
- b. Details of any enforcement action, notices, or legal proceedings taken against these companies.

Response:

East Cambridgeshire District Council does not own any housing stock, as this was all passed to Sanctuary Housing in 1994. We therefore have not had to utilise any trauma cleaning companies and do not hold the information requested.

The Council considers that the requested information falls within the Environmental Information Regulations ("EIR"), which relate to information on activities affecting or likely to affect the elements and factors of the environment.

In respect of those requests that were answered in full or partially and 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)(a) – Information Not Held

c) State why the exemption applies:

Regulation 12 (4) a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that (a) it does not hold that information when an applicant's request is received.

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 25/26-083.

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.