



Further to your information request FOI/EIR 25/26-324, please find your question and our response below.

Request:

Please provide the following information for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2025, broken down by financial year:

- 1) Total expenditure by the council on pest control usage at any buildings and land that the council control, including but not limited to parks, schools, council housing, council buildings, public bus stations, etc. This includes both in-house provision and external/contracted services.
- 2) If any services are contracted out, please provide the supplier name(s) and the contract value(s).
- 3) The number of call-outs/treatments by species category (e.g. rats, mice, pigeons, gulls, foxes, grey squirrels, wasps, bedbugs, cockroaches—please use your own categories if recorded differently).
- 4) For any lethal control commissioned or carried out by the council, the number of animals (e.g. rats, mice, pigeons, gulls, foxes, grey squirrels, wasps, bedbugs, cockroaches) killed by species and, where recorded, the method used (e.g. trapping, poisoning, shooting).
- 5) A copy of any policy, guidance, or standard operating procedure relating to the council's pest control service or contractors.

Response:

- 1) £20,071.00
- 2) Soham Pest Control, £1363.56 + VAT per annum
- 3) Pigeons x 2 (2024/25), rats x 4 per annum, wasps x 1 (2021/22)
- 4) Bait traps for mice and rats. Number of mice and rats killed not recorded.
- 5) No policy, guidance or SOPs held for pest control. Information Not Held

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 25/26-324.

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.