



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE,
ELY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB7 4EE

Telephone: Ely (01353) 665555

www.eastcambs.gov.uk

Further to your information request FOI/EIR 23/24-316, please find your question and our response below.

Request:

Would you please be able to provide copy invoices for electricity, gas and water supplied to 1 Council owned or operated, non-residential property for 2021, 2022 and 2023, in pdf format? Ideally I would like to receive these copy invoices for one of the Council's larger buildings, but if that is in any way problematic, copy invoices for a random building would suffice. To clarify, I would like to receive copies of actual invoices as PDFs for this period, not a summary of utility consumption and costs.

Response:

East Cambridgeshire District Council publishes information on all utility contracts and all expenditure over £500. However, we do not publish the actual invoices for goods and services, as to do so would potentially put the council at risk of fraudulent activity.

This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 31 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. 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 31(1)(a) – Law Enforcement

- c) State why the exemption applies:

31(1) Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice - (a) the prevention or detection of crime.

Section 31(1)(a) provides an exemption where prejudice could be caused to allow potential fraudsters to use the information to identify a number of avenues to obtain funds. Disclosure of this information would result in the need to implement disproportionate steps and additional expense to the public purse to counter an increased fraud risk that does not exist at present and this information will therefore not be released.

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 23/24-316.

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.