



Further to your information request FOI/EIR 24/25-155, please find your question and our response below.

Request:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from East Cambridgeshire.

- 1) A list of instances, in the past 15 years, when East Cambridgeshire has found structural issues with hollow block and beam/beam and pot structures on any buildings within the authority. The list should include: the address where the issue was found, what sort of building (i.e. school, office etc) it, and when the issue was found.
- 2) A list of instances, in the past 15 years, when East Cambridgeshire commissioned reports from structural engineers into structural issues with hollow block and beam/beam and pot structures on any buildings within the authority. The list should include: the address where the issue was found, what sort of building (i.e. school, office etc), and when the issue was found.
- 3) Copies of those reports.

Response:

This information is not recorded as a separate issue with our records. We would therefore have to manually check every application for the past 15 years (approximately 16,000 applications) to retrieve this data. We have calculated that it would take 2 minutes to check each application, which would mean that we could check 540 applications within the 18 hour time scale allowed under the Freedom of Information Act. However, the Building Control Manager has stated that if they checked non-residential properties only that they could potentially manage to check the past 15 years within the time scale allowed.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for local government is £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving, and extracting the information.

This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 12(4)(b) 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 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.

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 24/25-155.

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.