



## Information Governance

Postal address:  
Coventry City Council  
PO Box 15  
Council House  
Coventry  
CV1 5RR

[www.coventry.gov.uk](http://www.coventry.gov.uk)

E-mail: [infoqov@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:infoqov@coventry.gov.uk)

Phone: 024 7697 5408

23 May 2019

Dear Sir/Madam.

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**  
**Request ID: REQ04446**

Thank you for your request for information relating to the MiPermit contract. We apologise for the delay in responding to your request.

Your request is outlined below:

**1. Would you please provide the invoices that you've had since 2013 or when the contract started with MiPermit?**

We can confirm that we hold this information and it is accessible to you via the Council website, please use the following link:-

[http://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/download/818/spending\\_over\\_500](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/download/818/spending_over_500)

We therefore do not have to provide the information as per Section 21 of the FOIA.

Please note MiPermit is an associated service that is provided to Coventry City Council through our contract with Chipside.

**2. Would you please provide a copy of the contract currently in force with MiPermit?**

Please see the attached document. Details of costs, fees and charges have been redacted as it is exempt from disclosure under section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides that:

“Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it)”.

In this case, disclosure of the information would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the supplier for the amounts they charge for this service. As a result, we are satisfied that the exemption applies.

This exemption is subject to the public interest test as detailed below:

#### Public interest test

There is an inherent public interest in ensuring that there is openness and transparency in the spending of public money. Transparency is likely to increase confidence in procurement procedures and purchasing decisions made by the Council. It will also enable the public to understand whether the Council is getting value for money from its purchasing decisions.

Having said this, we believe that disclosure of the costs and fees could prejudice the Council’s ability to make sound purchasing decisions as suppliers would not be operating from a level playing field. For example, disclosure of the costs to a competitor could lead to the competitor copying elements of their business model to win work without actually having the internal mechanisms (capacity, staffing skills, etc.) to deliver the product or service at the level and price outlined, when future bids with the Council or other organisations are tendered.

After considering the arguments outlined above, the Council have decided to withhold the information relating to the costs.

The supply of information in response to a Freedom of Information request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

Should you wish to make any further requests for information, you may find what you are looking for is already published on the [Council’s web site](#) and in particular its [FOI/EIR Disclosure log](#), [Council’s Publication Scheme](#), [Open Data](#) and [Facts about Coventry](#).

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: [infogov@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:infogov@coventry.gov.uk)

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe

House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk).

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

**Information Governance**