



**Information Governance**  
Coventry City Council  
PO Box 15  
Council House  
Coventry  
CV1 5RR

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

21 August 2020

Please contact Information Governance  
Direct line 024 7697 5408  
infogov@coventry.gov.uk

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)  
Request ID: REQ07360**

Thank you for your request for information on energy details for Council buildings.

Your request and our responses are outlined below:

- 1. A list of business/commercial premises owned or leased to the council. Please include;**
  - Full address including Postcode**
  - Gas supply details (MPRN)**
  - Gas usage, kwh per year**
  - Gas rates paid**
  - Electric supply details (MPAN)**
  - Electric usage, kwh per year**
  - Electric rates paid**
  - Current Suppliers**
  - Contract end dates**

Please see the weblink below that will take you to the spreadsheet which shows all the property and land that the Council owns –

[https://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/download/4589/la\\_transparency\\_land\\_and\\_property\\_list\\_2018](https://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/download/4589/la_transparency_land_and_property_list_2018)

With regard to your request for the cost of gas supply details (MPRN) and electric supply details (MPAN), we can confirm that Coventry City Council holds the information you requested. However, we are withholding part of your request as we consider that this information is exempt from disclosure under Section 31(1)(a) - Law enforcement.

Disclosure of this information would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. The MPAN/MPRN combined with the address, customer name, procurement officer details, contract end date and supplier is enough to enable people to potentially fraudulently act on the energy accounts.

Section 31(1)(a) is a qualified exemption, and therefore is subject to the Public Interest Test. Section 31(1)(a) provides an exemption where prejudice could be caused to allow potential fraudsters to use the information to

To use this exemption, we are required to undertake a public interest test. The matters which were considered in applying the public interest test are as follows:

### **Factors in favour of disclosure**

Withholding the information could be perceived as the council attempting to retain monies that belong to the public.

It is in the public interest to be open and transparent about our use of public funds.

It is also in the public interest to provide some transparency regarding the records we hold in respect of the administration of the Council's property portfolio

### **Factors in favour of withholding**

There is a public interest in ensuring that monies from the public purse are not fraudulently claimed and also a public interest in not making it easier for fraud to be committed.

Disclosure of the requested 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.

The cost consequences of a successful fraudulent claim would:

- have incurred the cost of paying out to the fraudster;
- remain liable to the legitimate business for an equivalent amount, raising the prospect of paying out twice; and
- be faced with the cost (legal and incurrence of internal management time) of seeking to recover the funds wrongly paid to the fraudster.

It would not be in the public interest to expose it to such potential costs and expenses, given that they would be funded from the public purse.

It is considered that the greater public interest, therefore, lies in not providing the information at this time. In coming to that conclusion, the public interest in providing the information has been carefully weighed against any prejudice to the public interest that might arise from withholding the information; in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. This response, therefore, acts as a refusal notice under Section 17 of the FOIA.

Having considered the public interest, we have decided not to release the information.

**2. Name, position and email address of the staff responsible for the arrangements of energy contracts/purchasing, together with the telephone number for the department (direct dial not expected given GDPR.)**

Coventry City Council Procurement Officers, telephone number - 024 7683 3757, email address - [procurement.services@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:procurement.services@coventry.gov.uk).

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**

Enclosures: REQ07360 - CPM Utility.csv  
REQ07360 – Gas.pdf  
REQ07360 – Electricity.pdf