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15th March, 2021

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: REQ08115**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Marriage Notice.

Your request and our response is shown below:

1) Can a legal notice of marriage to the council be altered, free of charge, once it has been submitted?

No, a legal notice of marriage cannot be altered free of charge once it is submitted.

2) What, if any, refund or compensatory policy does the council offer couples, whose wedding plans, as detailed on their legal statement, have been cancelled or postponed due to circumstances caused by the coronavirus pandemic (thereby nullifying their legal notice)?

We understand that couples may wish to postpone or cancel their ceremony due to circumstances caused by Coronavirus and, in these circumstances, we will cancel and refund fees or change dates and times without charging any additional. If couples decide to cancel their ceremony their deposit will not be refunded. In addition, if they are rescheduling more than 3 months before the date of their ceremony without knowing what restrictions will be in place a £50 admin fee is payable.

3) How many legal notices of marriage did the council receive for the years 2020 and 2021, respectively, and in what years were these notices given?

4) How much money did the council earn from legal notices of marriage for the years 2020, and 2021? Please give this amount in total, and also as a breakdown of the amount received in a given year, which contributes to this total.

5) How many of these legal notices of marriage for 2020 and 2021 respectively, were nullified due to cancellation, or change of wedding venue or date, caused by the pandemic? If reason for nullification is not given, please simply provide the number of nullified legal marriage notices for 2020 and 2021, respectively.

6) How many resubmissions of legal notices of marriage did the council receive from couples whose previous legal notice of marriage, for the years 2020 and 2021, were nullified due to the pandemic? If reason for nullification is not given, please simply provide the number of resubmitted legal notices of marriages, of those originally submitted for 2020 and 2021, respectively.

7) How much money did the council receive from resubmissions of legal notices of marriage, by couples whose previous legal notices of marriage for the years 2020 and 2021, were nullified due to the pandemic? Again, if reason for nullification is not given, please simply provide the amount of money received from resubmitted legal notices of marriages, of those originally submitted for 2020 and 2021, respectively.

8) How many legal notices of marriage did the council receive for the year 2019, and how much money did the council earn from these legal notices?

9) How many resubmissions of legal notices of marriage did the council receive, from couples whose previous legal notice of marriage were nullified due to a change in wedding venue or date (originally planned for 2019), and how much did the council earn from these resubmissions?

Note - By legal notice of marriage, I am referring to the notice of an arranged wedding that all couples must give to their local council, ahead of the ceremony.

In response to Questions 3-9, we may hold the information which you have asked for but we have estimated that the cost of meeting your request would exceed the cost limit of £450 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations 2004). This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours or more, in determining whether the information is held.

This is because the information is not held in a format that is easily accessible or reportable. During this period, we have had a high number of ceremony reschedules and at this stage do not necessarily know yet how many notices will need redoing. We estimate that as it would take an officer approximately one to two weeks to determine if the information is held, and then to retrieve and compile it. This part of your request has been therefore refused under section 12(2) of the Act.

To assist, it may be possible that you could narrow down the scope of your request, for example, by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain, including any dates or periods of time relevant to the information required. Please note that any reformulated request will be treated as a fresh request.

Alternatively, you may want to look at the information we already publish to see if what you are looking for is already available via the Council's FOI/EIR Disclosure Log; Publication Scheme; Facts about Coventry or Open Data.

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

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.

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

Yours faithfully

Information Governance