



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) Request ID: FOI336200840

Thank you for your request for information relating to In-house ecological expertise.

You have requested the following information:

Q1. Would you please tell me how many chartered ecologists the council has employed over the last three years between May 2018 to May 2021?

| Chartered Ecologist (CEcol) | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----|
| Year | | FTE |
| 2018/19 | Apr-Mar | 0.0 |
| 2019/20 | Mar-Sep | 0.0 |
| | Oct-Mar | 0.0 |
| 2020/21 | Apr-Mar | 0.0 |
| 2021/22 | Apr-Mar | 0.0 |

NB. Please note that the FOI requests information regarding “someone who holds Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) status”. This has been interpreted as referring to ecological expertise only (cf Part 1). Chartered Environmentalist status can include a very wide range of roles (eg waste, building design, water management) which are not associated with ecology or wildlife.

Q2. Would you please also tell me how many “other environmental experts” the council

employs, who are either unchartered but hold a position as an environmentalist or hold chartered status in a related discipline e.g. someone who holds Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) status. Would you please also provide this figure in terms of FTE equivalence.

Please see table below:

| Other environmental (ecology) | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|------|--|
| Year | | FTE | Notes |
| 2018/19 | Apr-Mar | 11.9 | Service provided by Warwickshire County Council. 13 Ecological Officers (11.89 FTE). 11 of the officers are MCIEEM. 1 officer is CECol (but did not work on any Coventry projects during period) |
| 2019/20 | Mar-Sep | 0.5 | Part-time post, directly employed by Coventry City Council (Planning Policy). Officer MCIEEM |
| | Oct-Mar | 1.0 | Full-time post, directly employed by Coventry City Council (Planning Policy), new appointment* See Note |
| 2020/21 | Apr-Mar | 1.0 | Full-time post, directly employed by Coventry City Council (Planning Policy) See Note |
| 2021/22 | Apr-Mar | 1.0 | Full-time post, directly employed by Coventry City Council (Planning Policy). Additional post expected to be appointed during period See Note |

*The current Ecology Officer (June 2021) is eligible for CECol (Ecology PhD, experience with Local authorities, Natural England, NGOs etc).

Note: Coventry City Council has an SLA with Warwickshire County Council for access to data from Warwickshire Biodiversity Records Centre and support for the Local Wildlife Sites project (equivalent to 0.15 FTE)

There is also an SLA with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust for the Habitat Biodiversity Audit team (based at Warwickshire County Council) which undertakes site surveys and monitoring (equivalent to 0.2 FTE)

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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 icocasework@ico.org.uk.

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

Yours faithfully

Information Governance