



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: FOI356595915

Thank you for your request for information relating to EV charging.

You have requested the following information:

1. Council name

Coventry City Council.

2. Region

West Midlands.

3. What is your current budget for purchasing public EV charging points per annum? If you do not have a set yearly budget, please can you confirm how much money has been spent on purchasing EV charging points over the last 12 months?

The Council does not have a specific budget to purchase any charge point. The Council has

secured funding through the Onstreet Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS) through the Office for Zero Emission Vehicle (OZEV).

In the last 12 months, the Council has spent £440,855 in grant funding to purchase 211 charge points. In addition 18 fast chargers were also purchased using grant funding two years ago, however no further purchases have been made in the last 12 months.

4. What is your current budget for maintaining public EV charging points per annum?

All of the charge points purchased through OZEV funding are maintained by the charge point Operator at their cost. For the Council purchased 18 fast chargers, maintenance is £3,300 per annum.

5. What is the cost associated with buying a single public EV charging point? If costs can vary, please share an average or typical cost if known.

Please include the total, including any OLEV funding.

It is confirmed that the Council does hold information pursuant to your request. However, it is our view that the information is exempt from disclosure under Section 43(2) – Commercially Sensitive Information. Section 43(2) exempts information from disclosure where disclosure of that information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity).

It is the Council's position that the third-party providers and its own commercial interests would be prejudiced and/or would be likely to be prejudiced by the disclosure of the requested information.

Once the information is disclosed this means that it will be in the public domain and it could not only be used by the requester but also any other providers in a similar market.

Arguments in favour of disclosure.

- Promote accountability and transparency for the Council's decisions and in its spending of public money.
- Assist the public to understand and challenge our decisions.
- Inform the public of the activities carried out on their behalf, allowing for more user involvement and collaborative decision making.
- Enable the public to better scrutinise the public monies spent

Arguments against disclosure.

- There is a public interest in allowing public authorities to withhold information which if disclosed, would reduce providers' ability to compete in a commercial environment.
- The successful providers operate in a competitive market. If prejudicing the commercial interests of the successful providers in the market would distort competition in that market, this would not be in the public interest.
- Disclosure of information may cause unwarranted reputational damage or loss of confidence in the Council.
- Revealing such information can be detrimental to a provider's commercial interest as this could be

used to identify financial income. If an organisation has knowledge of a provider's business model, it can exploit this for its own commercial interest. This would also have a detrimental impact on the Council on other contracts and procurements by distorting the market, for the reasons stated above.

Having considered the arguments for and against disclosure, the Council has decided that the public interest in this case is best served by maintaining the exemption under section 43(2) FOIA and by not disclosing the information requested.

The decision to withhold the information requested is therefore upheld on the basis that Section 43(2) in relation to commercially sensitive information has been applied correctly

In order to assist, the average cost of the City Council purchased chargers approximated to £3,223 (2019 prices) which includes operating systems, charging pay station, kiosk, parking blocks, mounting posts etc.

6. What is the cost associated with maintaining a single public EV charging point per annum? Please include the total, including any OLEV funding.

The Council does not maintain public charge points installed through OZEV funding. The Council owned 18 chargers cost £3,300 per annum in total, giving an average annual maintenance cost of £350 per individual charge point.

7. How much government funding for public EV charging points have you received over the last 12 months? Please write "0" if none.

In the last 12 months, the Council received £791,970 in grant funding through OZEV under the Onstreet Residential Chargepoint Scheme.

8. What percentage of your annual budget for public EV charging points is funded by the government?

The Council does not have an annual budget for EV charge points.

9. How many new public EV charging points do you expect to see installed in your authority between now and end of year 2022? If you don't have a specific number planned, please respond with no specific number planned

There is a proposal to install additional 200 plus charge points between now and end of year 2022, subject to securing the necessary grant funding from Government.

10. Do you have a plan in place for the installation of more public EV charging points through to 2025? If not, over what period of time do you have a roadmap for? If you don't have a roadmap, please respond with "we don't have any specific plan in place".

The Council will continue to pursue funding opportunities for the further expansion of the charge point network within Coventry.

11. Are you making specific plans for the installation of rapid public EV charging points by

2025? If so, what percentage of new public charging points will be rapid? In this case, 'rapid' means 43Kw or more.

The Council has already installed 39 rapid (50kW) charge points in Coventry, which have been operational since July 2020.

12. In the last 12 months, have you received any complaints from constituents about the reliability, availability or number of EV charging points in your council?

Other than a couple of incidents where vehicles have knocked over charging bollards, no complaints have been received from Coventry constituents.

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.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

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