



Information Governance Team

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

www.coventry.gov.uk

E-mail: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

Phone: 024 7697 5408

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI370288208

Thank you for your request for information relating to Political Members' gifts disclosure.

You have requested the following information:

1. Since January 2015 how many political members have declared their acceptance of the following items from residents in gratitude for undertaking casework?

Tobacco

Holidays

Alcohol

Flowers

Event Tickets

Jewellery

The Ethics Committee of Coventry City Council receives reports approximately every six months on Member Gifts and Hospitality. These reports are published and are available to view on the Council's website at the following link:

<https://edemocracy.coventry.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=161>.

We therefore do not need to disclose the information as per Section 21 of the Act.

This exemption is not subject to the public interest test.

To access the data, please select the year you wish to view from the drop-down menu under

“Show meetings for the year” and click “Go”.

2. Do your Council rules/code of conduct prohibit the acceptance of not only the above items but any gifts as a result of a political member undertaking casework?

The current version of the Council's Code of Conduct for Elected and Co-opted Members is available on the Council's website at: the following link:

<https://edemocracy.coventry.gov.uk/documents/s51101/Part%204%20-%20Codes%20and%20Protocols.pdf>

We therefore do not need to disclose the information as per Section 21 of the Act.

The code does not identify specific exclusions but includes the following guidance in relation to the acceptance of gifts:

“As a Councillor, you must not accept gifts or hospitality, irrespective of estimated value, which could give rise to real or substantive personal gain or a reasonable suspicion of influence on your part to show favour from persons seeking to acquire, develop or do business with the local authority or from persons who may apply to the local authority for any permission, licence or other significant advantage.

In order to protect your position and the reputation of the local authority, you should exercise caution in accepting any gifts or hospitality which are (or which you reasonably believe to be) offered to you because you are a Councillor. The presumption should always be not to accept significant gifts or hospitality.”

3. If the answer to Q1 is one or more, and the answer to Q2 is yes, what action was taken by either your Council or the Political Party of which the member(s) are affiliated?

Not applicable.

The supply of information in response to a FOI/EIR 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