



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

03 November 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI368495856

Thank you for your request for information relating to glyphosate-based herbicides.

You have requested the following information:

1. Which glyphosate-based herbicides[1] are currently used by or on behalf of the Council and/or on land owned by, managed by, or under the control of, the Council?

For adopted highway, footpaths, cemeteries and Authority owned commercial sites:

Glyphosate 360g/l

For routine maintenance programme, treatment around street furniture etc.:

Glyphosate 480g/l

2. For the most recent 12-month period for which information is available, please could you tell me the amount and brand of each glyphosate-based herbicide in question, as well as the size of the area over which they were used.

Adopted highway:

Application rate based on manufacturers recommendation of 5 l/ha. When mixed with a vegetable oil adjuvant this is reduced to 3.75l/ha.

Brand: Rosate 360TF (clean label)
2021: Qty
1st treatment: 674.25 litres
2nd treatment: 761.75 litres
Each treatment is across approx. 2,000km

Routine maintenance programme: Treatment around street furniture etc.
Application rate based on manufacturers recommendation.
Brand: Roundup Pro Vantage (clean label)
Quantity: 165 litres

3. Please could you explain the basis for (i) the Council's choice of particular product(s), and (ii) the Council's decision to use glyphosate-based herbicides rather than alternative methods. Please could you provide me with copies of any policy or other document which informs that decision-making.

Glyphosate is a broad-spectrum herbicide approved for use, when applied to recommended application rates and methods. Alternatives to glyphosate are not tested or regulated to the same standards as glyphosate, in terms of environmental impact and health and safety.

Current alternatives offer less sustainability of quality when considering, as a whole, safety, efficacy, efficiency, results and cost. We will continue to monitor alternatives and also monitor the continued approval of the use of Glyphosate and any guidance re application.

4. I understand that, if the Council uses, or instructs others to use, plant protection products (including glyphosate-based herbicides) then the Council is required by law[2] to ensure that[3]:

a. all reasonable precautions are taken to protect human health and the environment;

Only personnel trained to NPTC PA1, PA2 and/or PA6 are permitted to apply herbicides. Spraying is only undertaken in suitable weather conditions and staff operate in accordance with clear Risk Assessment, Safe Systems of Work Practices and in accordance the manufactures guidelines.

b. the application of the plant protection product is confined to the crop, land, produce, buildings, contents of buildings, materials or other areas intended to be treated;

Detailed maps are provided to the applicants, showing areas to be treated.

Treatment is by spot treatment i.e. to the weed present or area only requiring treatment in accordance with best practice and codes of practice.

Vehicles and knap sack equipment used for spraying are fitted with nozzles to aid drift elimination and to ensure direct application to treatment area.

Treatment is suspended in inclement weather conditions such as high winds and wet conditions.

Vehicles (applying treatment) are fitted with trackers devices.

c. when the product is used in places of heightened concern (which includes, among others, areas used by the public or vulnerable groups[4], areas in the close vicinity of healthcare facilities, and on or along roads, railway lines, very permeable surfaces, or other infrastructure close to surface water or groundwater) that the amount used and the frequency of use are as low as reasonably practicable.

As an Authority we are responsible for treatment of the adopted highway and footpaths and land owned by the authority and do not treat private owned facilities. We apply glyphosate at a 25% reduced rate with the use of a vegetable oil adjuvant. Trials are ongoing to reduce this amount to 50%.

Minimum applications are applied. Currently two applications per annum are required to maintain a safe surface for pedestrians, particularly on paved surfaces. In addition, keeping weeds to a minimum prevents surfaces from damage.

5. Please explain how the Council ensures that it complies with the requirements set out above in paragraph 4, particularly in terms of operational decision-making by the Council?

Legislation requires that records of applications are kept, in terms of; application rate, products used, areas and amounts, dates, operatives and weather. The contractor that the Council use, was appointed through a procurement process, which assesses suppliers credentials (this includes qualifications and professional standards, health and safety accreditations, experience and methods of work).

6. Please provide me with copies of any policy or other document which informs the Council's decision-making in relation to compliance with the legal requirements set out in paragraph 4 above. Please also provide copies of evidence of the Council's decision-making over the past 12 months relating to the records of decisions taken to ensure the amount of plant protection products used and the frequency of use are as low as reasonably practicable.

Our term contractor adheres to best practice and industry standards and keeping of records including:

- BASIS Amenity Assured Standard
- BASIS Nominated Storekeeper
- NPTC certificates for applicants
- Application records
- Health and Safety Policy
- Environmental Policy

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