



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI396615118

Thank you for your request for information relating to energy costs.

You have requested the following information:

1. Have your authority's electricity and gas bills increased since July 2021?

Yes.

2. If so, by roughly how much?

December 2021 energy spend was approximately £223,000 more than July 2021. However, a more relevant comparison is against December 2020. The December 2021 energy spend was approximately £118,000 more than December 2020.

3. Is this increase due to a higher rate per unit of gas and electricity charged by your energy provider, or for another reason?

The main reason for increase in monthly utility spend since July 2021 is that we are now in winter where more energy is required for lighting and heating. A significant reason behind the increase compared to December 2020 is that we have also acquired additional properties during this period which has added to our energy spend. Our electricity rates have increased by approximately 5% as part of our contract renewal so around £20,000 the additional cost is related to increased energy prices.

4. Have you made any reductions to the provision of street lighting in your area since July 2021, or are you planning any reductions? Please specify the changes, if so.

No.

5. If yes, is this because energy bills have risen?

Not applicable, please refer to Question 4.

6. Have you made any reductions to the provision of lighting or heating in any of your buildings, or are you planning any reductions? Please specify the changes, if so.

During 2021/22 Coventry City Council has delivered a large programme of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects following the successful bid for a £6m Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund grant. This has included a range of lighting upgrades, insulation improvements, Solar PV installations and Air Source Heat Pump installations across 30 council buildings. We are actively investigating further opportunities to improve the energy efficiency of the estate.

7. If yes, is this because energy bills have risen?

In part, these works have been undertaken primarily to reduce the carbon emissions associated with Council operations. However, as a result of the works the Council will be using less energy and therefore will also benefit from less impact from higher energy prices going forwards.

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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