



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI408534004

Thank you for your request for information relating to HGV driver/bin collection industrial dispute.

You have requested the following information:

Please treat this letter as a formal request submitted on behalf of [REDACTED] to the Council as a public authority for the purpose of compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The union requests that information should be disclosed relating to the activities of the Council as they relate to and arise from the current HGV driver/bin collection industrial dispute. Below I set out the areas of information the [REDACTED] requests, and whilst some specific examples are provided, you should not see this as to any extent limiting your obligation to comply also with the spirit of the legislation, which includes a presumption as regards disclosure unless a particular legal exemption exists. The areas of information requested by the union are as follows:-

1. The Council has recruited labour to cover the work of those involved in the industrial dispute, and this will have led to costs being incurred associated with use of agency labour, contractor drivers, and costs payable to third party businesses such as Tom White Waste Limited. We require details of all of the costs on a weekly basis, and information as to whether minimum contract periods were agreed with any of the drivers used, providing information about the contract periods in question.

The Council has not recruited any labour, including any agency employees, to cover the roles of striking employees. The Council has instead commissioned Tom White Waste Ltd (TW Waste) to carry out this work on a temporary basis for the duration of the strike action in accordance with

legal requirements and the Councils requirements. All staff employed, which does not include any agency employees, in the provision of the domestic waste collection services are employed via TW Waste.

The total cost of TW Waste providing these services from the period covering 1 February to 31 March was £767,665.05. These costs include all related costs for the provision of the services procured including all TW Waste site costs. Specific details around the terms and conditions of their employment and their contract lengths are held by TW Waste.

2. Associated costs including security staff at drop sites and at Tom White Waste Limited, dog patrols at Blackburn Road. We request details of the weekly costs.

The total average weekly cost for the provision of the temporary pop-up sites between the period covering 29 December and 31 March was £84,437.32. These include all associated costs for running the sites including the provision and servicing of Refuse Collection Vehicles by TW Waste and the costs to provide adequate security arrangements by the security contractor, including Dog Patrols.

3. Information about the sums paid by the Council for provision of vehicles to be used, and associated costs such as operator licences so that vehicles can be kept overnight at new locations, together with additional insurance costs. Information should be provided on a weekly basis or on any other basis applicable to the particular expense, e.g. and insurance premium.

Please refer to Questions 1 and 2, these include all associated costs for the provision of vehicles including insurance, site locations and security.

4. Tom White Waste Limited has hired recycling vehicles from the Council and these costs should be disclosed, together with the costs for lorries rented from private firms.

The hiring of the recycling vehicles from the Council forms part of the temporary arrangement between the Council and Tom White Waste Limited for the duration of the strike action. The costs for lorries rented from private firms is covered in the figure quoted in Question 1.

5. Additional costs should be disclosed associated with miscellaneous matters such as cutting a hole in the wall at Canterbury Street, the use of street cleansing/city culture teams (undertaking non-standard duties), car park rental charges for bin wagons, to date on a weekly basis and projected for any minimal rental period.

The work carried out in the Wellington Road car park to enable it to become a temporary waste site was carried out internally and no charge has been made. Work being undertaken by Street Cleansing/City of Culture Teams has been done at no additional cost.

6. Information about loss to date on the part of the Council arising from a drop in income from commercial waste collections, this can be provided to date, and if the Council has any future estimate of loss, which should also be provided.

The income lost in 2021/22 and projected losses estimated for 2022/23 are not yet available as outturns are still being calculated. Therefore, this information is not held by the Council at this

stage for the purposes of disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act and we advise you as per Section 1 of the Act.

7. Unless covered by one of the above requests, the union believes that temporary waste collection sites have been established and all costs to date should be notified in relation to this issue.

Please refer to Question 2.

8. The Council has revised arrangements for a fortnightly household waste collection, and information should be provided about all costs associated with that issue.

Please refer to Question 1.

9. The union believes that the Council has entered a short term contract with Tom White Waste Limited to carry out collections, and the information required about this contract should relate to the overall cost of the contract and the costs incurred to date on a weekly basis.

The Council has commissioned TW Waste to carry out waste collection on a temporary basis for the duration of the strike action in accordance with legal requirements and the Councils requirements. In terms of the overall cost, please refer to the response provided in Question 1 above.

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

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