



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI548858007

Thank you for your request for information relating to pesticides used by the Council.

You have requested the following information:

1. Does the council use any pesticides to maintain green areas?

No.

a. If it used to, but has now stopped, when did it stop using them?

We confirm that we do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. This information not held in our records.

2. Please provide the following information on amenity pesticide usage, if the council uses pesticides, or used to in the past 5 years.

a. Does the council use Glyphosate?

Yes.

b. Annual quantities of Glyphosate used over the past 5 years. Please provide the quantities for each year separately and include the total amount used both by the council internally and externally through contractors. –

2019: 1,815.75 Litres
2020: 1,626.75 Litres
2021: 1,556.93 Litres
2022: 1,595.40 Litres
2023: 1,397.56 Litres

In regards to the quantities used internally and externally, we hold the information which you have asked for, but we have estimated that the cost of meeting your request would exceed the cost limit of £450 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations 2004). This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours or more, in determining whether the information is held, locating, retrieving and extracting it.

This information is not held in an existing reportable format and therefore it would require an officer to manually review records to determine what information is held and collate the relevant information. This has been estimated to exceed the 18-hour limit under the Act. This part of your request has therefore been refused under section 12(2) of the Act.

c. Where is Glyphosate used, i.e., parks, play areas, highway verges and roads, pavements, tree bases, estate-based green spaces, etc. –

All of the listed.

3. How much has the council spent on purchasing and spraying amenity pesticides over the past 5 years? Please include staff costs of people employed to undertake this (either contractors or council staff).

We do not use pesticides.

4. If the council has stopped using pesticides, how much has been spent on maintaining green spaces over the last five years, and what method is used (i.e., no control, manual weeding, mowing and hand pulling, propane/flame gun, etc.) Please include staff costs of people employed to undertake this (either contractors or council staff).

Regarding Glyphosate treatment, the contractor spend for 2022/23 was £52,980.23 based on two treatments.

5. If the council has stopped spraying, has it had any complaints for not well-maintained green spaces (i.e., invasive and pernicious weeds) in the past 5 years and how many? Please provide the number of complaints for each year separately. Please provide the above in a CSV format.

Not applicable.

6. Has the council made any pledge to reduce or stop the usage of pesticides and if so, what strategies does the council have in place to reduce/stop the use of these pesticides? Please provide details on the action plan including dates and costings where possible.

We do not use pesticides only herbicides.

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