



**Information Governance Team**

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11 October 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**

**Request ID: FOI651807468**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Town hall rich list.

You have requested the following information:

**This is an information request relating to the town hall rich list by the TaxPayers' Alliance.**

**For the last three financial years, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, please provide the following information:**

**1. Any emails from or to the S151 officer or the chief executive which mention either of the following: the "TaxPayers' Alliance", "Taxpayers alliance" or "town hall rich list", or "rich list"**

Please see the attached document.

Please note certain information has been redacted, removed, as it could be used to identify the individuals involved.

Therefore, this information is exempt under section 40 (2) of the FOIA. This exemption covers the personal data of third parties (anyone other than the requester) where complying with the request would breach any of the principles in the Data Protection Act.

This has been done as the Council considers that this information meets the definition for personal data set out in Section 3(2) and 3(3) of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) as:

(2) personal data means any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual (subject to subsection (14)(c))”

(3) “Identifiable living individual” means a living individual who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to –

(a) an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data or an online identifier, or  
(b) one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of the individual.”

The information you have requested includes personal information of individuals. The disclosure of this information would breach one or more of the Data Protection Principles in the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR). The condition at section 40 3A(a) is therefore satisfied because disclosure in this instance would breach the first data protection principle. This is because it would be unfair to disclose such personal data where the employees and members of the public concerned have no expectation that their names would be released in the context of the information held.

The Council thus considers that the requested information is caught by the exemption to disclosure contained in Section 40 (2) of the FOI Act and the related first condition of Section 40 (3).

This is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest.

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](mailto: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](mailto:icocasework@ico.org.uk).

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

**Information Governance**

**From:** [Reeves, Martin](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]; [Hastie, Barry](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: BBC AGM  
**Date:** 30 June 2022 15:02:34  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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Noted.....

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 30 June 2022 14:54

**To:** Reeves, Martin [REDACTED]

Hastie, Barry [REDACTED]

**Subject:** FW: BBC AGM

Hi all

To put it on your radar BBC CWR are running an item around cost of AGM at time of cost of living crisis - see text below (we are not going on CWR)

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Coventry City Council

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 30 June 2022 11:42

**To:** Communications <[Communications@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:Communications@coventry.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** BBC Media Request - AGM - 5.15pm today

Hi,

Is anyone available to talk about this at 5.15pm?

It's for CWR.

Thanks.

**By Ellie Brown**

Coventry city council spent more than £17,000 – the cost of a small wedding – on its Annual Meeting last month.

This included a whopping £8,000 on food and drink alone, a Freedom of Information request by the Local Democracy Reporting Service revealed.

Rolls, cucumber sticks and mini-desserts were among the spread for the event at Coventry Cathedral attended by councillors, local dignitaries and other guests.

Security for the meeting cost over £4,000, while Cathedral and organ hire totalled £3,400.00.

Hundreds of pounds were spent on flowers and printing, and a photographer and videographer cost the public £1,325.00. The total spend was £17,638.33. Coventry City Council admitted that the event this year was “a little more unusual than most others.”

A council spokesperson said: “The council’s Annual Meeting is a special occasion in the civic calendar for many and was attended by approximately 400 people this year.

“This year marked the first time that the council was able to hold the Annual Meeting and Mayor Making ceremony in person for 3 years as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions of people gathering.

“The occasion also marked the end of the term of office for the previous Lord Mayor and the two Lord Mayors before this, as well as the creation of two honorary aldermen, which makes this year’s event a little more unusual than most others.”

They added: “The security and the well-being of guests at this year’s bigger event was a priority – so we retained a small team to oversee the event.”

But Harry Fone, grassroots campaign manager of the TaxPayers’ Alliance, told the Local Democracy Reporting Service: “Taxpayers are fed up of footing the bill for lavish local authority events.

“After facing yet another rate rise this year, local households want to see their hard-earned money spent on frontline services, not mayoral pomp.

“Coventry council must crack down on waste like this to keep costs down for residents.”

The meeting took place last month and saw Coventry’s new Lord Mayor Cllr Kevin Maton and Deputy Mayor Cllr Jaswant Singh Birdi officially appointed.

It also included a speech from Council Leader Cllr George Duggins in which he identified the cost of living as one of the “major challenges” for residents.

Five days before the meeting took place, Coventry Foodbank reported a massive spike in demand as the cost of living crisis hit residents.

Manager Hugh McNeill told local media on 14 May that food poverty in the city was “worst it’s ever been.”

NOTES TO EDITORS:

FOI emailed to me by council, happy to provide if needed.

Statements from TaxPayers alliance & council both emailed to me.

Headline: Cathedral EXT mayor-making

Description: Coventry cathedral glittered in the sun as dignitaries assembled inside (Image: Ellie Brown/LDRS)