



Information Governance Team

Postal Address:
Coventry City Council
PO Box 7097
Coventry
CV6 9SL

www.coventry.gov.uk

E-mail: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

Phone: 024 7697 5408

18 December 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: FOI669809738**

Thank you for your request for information relating to registered marriages between first cousins. You have requested the following information:

I would like to request under the Freedom of Information Act data I believe to be held by your authority concerning marriages. In particular, I would like to request information on what documentation prospective couples have to present to prove they are not related.

1. I would like to know the number of marriages which were blocked or prevented from proceeding because of a lack of this proof.

The response is nil. To clarify, no documentation relating to this is required. Before the notice of intention is started, they are asked the question but are not required to prove it.

2. In addition, I would like to know the number of marriages in your area for the past five years.

The figures for civil marriages for the past five years in Coventry are:

2019/2020: 714

2020/2021: 270

2021/2022: We are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act that this data is not held due to the Covid pandemic.

2022/2023: 664

2023/2024: 760

3. Can you break down this figure to show marriages between First Cousins?

4. Could this figure be broken down to include the ethnicity of both parties and their gender.

For Questions 3 and 4, we confirm that we do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. This information is not collated or recorded.

5. Also, I would like to know any policy or guidance you may have concerning the marriage of first or second cousins.

The Council does not hold the requested information and advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. There is no guidance held pertaining to this.

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