

Freedom of Information Act Annual Report 2018-2019

1. Summary

- 1.1. The Freedom of Information (FOI) Act was introduced in 2005 with its purpose being to make authorities and public bodies more open and transparent with the information they hold.
- 1.2. The FOI Act and the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) are very similar and are dealt with through the same process. The figures given below are for both FOI and EIR requests.
- 1.3. Public Authorities should respond to FOI / EIR requests within 20 working days from the date the request was received.
- 1.4. All requests must be received in writing and Haringey has a dedicated online form and email address for this.
- 1.5. In line with best practice, Haringey has been proactively publishing more data and information on line and has a disclosure log, which shows all requests received and responses issued.

2. Breakdown of Performance Information

- 2.1. Between April 2018 and March 2019 Haringey responded to a total of 1433 requests, an increase from the previous year. 82% of responses were sent within 20 days. The following table shows the performance across the past 5 years.

Year	No. of requests	% on time
2018-2019	1434	82%
2017-2018	1352	83%
2016-2017	1471	87%
2015-2016	1494	89%
2014-2015	1472	91%

- 2.2. There are cases where information was not provided to the requestor either because it was not held or there was a cost attached to it.

Information not Provided	Total	% of Total requests
Information not held	209	15%
Information not given due to cost	43	3%

2.3. In addition to these requests there were a further 148 cases (10%) where an exemption was applied. Both the FOI and EIR Acts contain exemptions that allow Public Authorities to withhold information in certain cases.

FOI - Exemption Applied	Total	% of Total Exemptions
Section 40 – Personal Information	44	30%
Section 31 – Law Enforcement	46	31%
Section 43 – Commercial Interests	12	8%
Section 21 – Info accessible by some other means	6	4%
Section 22 – Intended for future publication	12	8%
Section 24 – National Security	3	2%
Section 42 – Legal Professional Privilege	8	5%
Section 30 - Investigations and proceedings by public authorities	4	3%
Section 32 - Court records	1	<1%
Section 36 – Effective Conduct of Public Affairs	1	<1%
Section 38 - Health and Safety	8	5%
Section 41- Information provided in confidence	2	1%

EIR - Exemption Applied	Total	% of Total Exemptions
Regulation 13 – Personal data	1	<1%

2.4. The highest number of requests was received by Environment and Neighbourhoods Service who dealt with 468 cases, 33% of all received, and they responded to 89% on-time.

Service	No of requests	% of total requests
Environment & Neighbourhoods	468	33%
Corporate & Customer Services	234	16%

Commissioning	140	10%
Planning	127	9%
Children's Services - Safeguarding & Social Care	80	6%
Schools & Learning	72	5%
Housing & Growth	56	4%
Children's Services - Early Help & Prevention	55	4%
Corporate Governance	53	4%
Public Health	37	3%
Strategy & Communications	29	2%
Adult Social Services	27	2%
Customer Services & Libraries	18	1%
Finance	13	1%
Regeneration	13	1%
Transformation and Resources	7	<1%
Shared Digital (Haringey)	5	<1%
Grand Total	1434	100%

3. Internal Reviews

- 3.1. If a customer is unhappy with the way their FOI/EIR request was handled, they can ask for an Internal Review.
- 3.2. A total of 80 reviews were conducted in 2018/19, 6% of the 1434 requests received. 20% of the reviews were upheld.

Decision	Total	% of Total Reviews
Not upheld	48	60%
Partly upheld	16	20%
Upheld	16	20%

3.3. We responded to 91% of Internal Reviews within 20 days.

4. Information Commissioner

4.1. If, following an internal review, a customer remains dissatisfied with the response they can approach the office of the Information Commissioner (ICO) to ask them to review the decision.

4.2. During 2018/19 a total of 7 formal enquiries were received from the ICO. Four of these were settled by local resolution, meaning that agreement was reached with the requestor without the ICO issuing a formal decision. The Commissioner found against us in three cases and asked us to provide further information, which we did.