

Archived: 21 May 2024 10:44:08

From: [Freedom of Information Requests](#)

Sent: 14 May 2024 16:11:10

Subject: FOI Request Response [REDACTED]

Importance: Normal

Sensitivity: None

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information regarding List of Operational Issues (Finance Team).

Section 12 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act allows for a request for information to be refused where the cost of supplying this information exceeds the appropriate limit. After carefully considering your request for information the City of Doncaster Council has decided that to respond to your request would exceed the appropriate limit as defined in the [Freedom of Information \(Appropriate Limit and Fees\) Regulations 2004](#). The regulations allow a request for information to be refused where the cost of supplying this information exceeds £450 (or 18 hours of officer time).

The cost limit applies in this case because (the City of Doncaster Council does not hold a central record of this information. In order to determine the record, documents etc that we may hold regarding budget issues a total of 260 members of staff will need to review their emails, service requests, records, other documents etc. It is estimated that each member of staff will require a 2 hour investigation of their records. As 260 members of staff require review in order to determine this information this would result in a total time of approximately 540 hours which would exceed the time limit).

Although City of Doncaster Council cannot detail every operational challenge faced by finance teams within the cost limit, examples of the issues faced would include:-

- Recruitment difficulties due to fewer people in the labour market,
- Reduced staff levels due to reductions in budgets,
- Additional work during and after COVID-19 (e.g. providing grants to local businesses).

At the more strategic level, City of Doncaster Council publishes on its website the annual budget setting report that is presented to Full Council. The 'Revenue Budget 2024/25 – 2026/27' report is available by clicking on the following link:

<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s43219/3.%20Revenue%20Budget%20Full%20Report%20Council%2026th%20February%202024.pdf>

Paragraphs 62-80 contain a statement from the Council's Section 151 Officer (Assistant Director of Finance and Technology) that lists some of the financial challenges facing City of Doncaster Council.

City of Doncaster Council estimates that it has cost £46 to respond to this request for information.

If you are not happy with this reply you can ask us to review our response. To do this write to us at the address below or email FOIAppeals@doncaster.gov.uk

If you do not agree with the review decision you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision about our compliance or otherwise with the Freedom of Information legislation. Contact details for the ICO are: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. www.ico.org.uk Telephone 0303 123 1113.

Yours sincerely

Craig Miller
Information Governance Officer
Information Governance Team
Corporate Resources
City of Doncaster Council

Address Floor Two, Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster DN1 3BU Website www.doncaster.gov.uk

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Please treat the content of this e-mail as confidential. If you have received this e-mail and it is not addressed to you please accept my apologies and inform me as soon as possible.

Sent: 01 May 2024 01:09

Subject: FOI Request: List of Operational Issues (Finance Team)

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

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Dear Council staff,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to make a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

As a concerned citizen, I am interested in gaining insight into the operational challenges faced by the council finance team in years:

1. 2023/24
2. 2024/25 (ytd) and
3. expected to come up (if you are aware) from April 2025-March 2028.

So would like to request a list of operational issues encountered and expected by the council's finance teams during these periods.

Specifically, I would appreciate information on the key operational challenges, obstacles, and concerns that have impacted the efficient functioning of the finance teams within the Council. This may include, but is not limited to, issues related to resource constraints, efficiency, data management, procurement, risk management, financial reporting, and stakeholder engagement.

If available, I would also be grateful for any documents, reports, or records that outline or discuss these operational issues in detail.

I understand that under the Freedom of Information Act, you are required to respond to this request within 20 working days. If any clarification or further information is needed to process this request, please do not hesitate to contact me via email.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,