

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Decision notice

Date: 16 August 2022

Public Authority: Chrishall Parish Council
Address: chrishallclerk@gmail.com

Decision

1. The complainant requested information from Chrishall Parish Council ("the Council") relating to the transfer of land. The Commissioner's decision is that the Council is entitled to rely on section 14(1) (vexatious request) to refuse to provide the requested information.

Request and response

2. The complainant made the following information request to the Council on 6 December 2021:

"I...make a request under FOI for all data related to the issues I raised [about a transfer of land]."
3. The Council refused to provide the requested information citing section 14(1) (vexatious request) of the FOIA.

Reasons for decision

4. This reasoning covers whether the Council is entitled to rely on section 14(1) of the FOIA to refuse to provide the requested information.
5. The position of the Council is that it considers the request to be vexatious as complying with the request would disrupt the Council due

to the broad nature of the request and the volume of information requested. Therefore, it does not consider that complying with the request would be in the public interest. The complainant does not consider their request to be vexatious.

6. The Commissioner recognises that the Council is a small public authority with limited resources. He therefore accepts that complying with such a broad request would place a burden on the Council.
7. The Commissioner's decision is that the request is vexatious. Therefore, the Council is entitled to rely on section 14(1) of the FOIA to refuse to comply with the request.
8. The Commissioner requires no further action to be taken by the Council in relation to the request. However, if the complainant were to submit a significantly more focussed request to the Council on similar subject matter that request may not be vexatious.

Right of appeal

9. Either party has the right to appeal against this decision notice to the First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights). Information about the appeals process may be obtained from:

First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights)
GRC & GRP Tribunals,
PO Box 9300,
LEICESTER,
LE1 8DJ

Tel: 0300 1234504

Fax: 0870 739 5836

Email: grc@justice.gov.uk

Website: www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber

10. If you wish to appeal against a decision notice, you can obtain information on how to appeal along with the relevant forms from the Information Tribunal website.
11. Any Notice of Appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 28 (calendar) days of the date on which this decision notice is sent.

Signed

Ben Tomes
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