

Data Protection Officer
Freedom of Information
NW Leicestershire District Council
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Coalville
Leicestershire
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Telephone: 01530 454763

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 1089

I write further to your email dated 28 February 2020.

Your request has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, explained on our [freedom of information](#) page.

Your request:

Are you able to provide details of any debts that the council has been chasing from the Norton Motorcycles UK business and Priest House Hotel?

Can you tell me if there are outstanding business rates, for instance, or other charges, and how much they might add up to?

Has the council written off any debts from the business in recent years and if so can you say how much please and on how many occasions?

Also, are there any documents relating to debts owed by the business to the council that you can direct me towards please?

You further requested:

Can you confirm if those figures are the total rates for the whole year please, or did they pay some?

Our response:

I have expanded our response to account for your request for further information.

Outstanding debts relate to business rates only for the year ending 31/3/2020. No debts have been written off previously.

Ratepayer	Financial Year	Address	O/S	Total Charges	Paid
Norton Motor Cycles (UK) Ltd	2019/2020	Ground Floor Hastings Building, Donington Park	£31,180	£93,240.00	£62,060.00
Priest House Hotel Limited	2019/2020	Priest House Hotel, Kings Mill, Castle Donington	£63,952.50	£91,326.87	£27,374.37

We are unable to share any documents relating to debt owed by the businesses under Section 31 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 31(1) (a) allows a public authority to withhold information if its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

In this case, North West Leicestershire District Council takes the stance that the release of documents regarding business account details could result in fraudulent refund claims being made to the Council for credit balances.

Engaging Section 31 requires a public interest test to be considered. There is a general public interest in increasing openness and transparency in relation to the Council's collection of taxes and the management of finances. In addition, the size of the businesses and the impact of their situation on the local and wider economy add to the weight of public interest. However, we have already detailed the information most pertinent to this request and that would be of the most public interest. The release of further records could increase the risk of fraudulent activity and set a poor precedent for future requests for private documentation. On this basis, the Council feels that the public interest in disclosing the information requested is outweighed by the public interest in preventing the risk of fraudulent claims.

The supply of information in response to a freedom of information request does not confer the right to re-use the information. UK copyright law allows information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research to be used without permission. Information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting except for in the case of photographs.

GOING FORWARD

If you are dissatisfied with the information supplied please feel free to contact me on the number above for any queries in relation to this response. Please note that in responding to further enquiries I can only comment on the information contained within this correspondence and cannot provide any further information that may pertain to an additional FOIA request.

Please remember to quote the Authority's four digit reference number given at the top of this email in any future communications.

If you remain dissatisfied following the conclusion of the above informal review, you have the right to ask for an internal review. A request for a review whether formal or informal should be submitted within two calendar months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be sent to DPO@NWLeicestershire.gov.uk or the address above.

Further details on our appeals and complaints procedure can be found on our website [here](#).

If you remain dissatisfied following the conclusion of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at accessicoinformation@ico.org.uk.