



Data Protection Officer
Freedom of Information
NW Leicestershire District Council
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Date: 10 August 2020

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 1227

I write further to your email dated 11 June 2020.

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

Your request:

Hi, I'd like to submit a freedom of information request regarding the Small Business Grant Fund that was made available to help businesses during the coronavirus 'lockdown'.

What I'm interested in is for companies whose 'nature of business' (SIC) as listed on Companies House falls under:

- 01700 (Hunting, trapping and related service activities)
- 82990 (Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified)
- 93199 (Other sports activities)

Could you provide a list of:

1. Those that received money from the Small Business Grant Fund between 1 April 2020 and 1 July 2020.
2. How much these companies received.
3. The date the grant money was paid to the company.

Our response:

Please find attached to this email excel spreadsheet 1127a with details of grants awarded to businesses that match the following Companies House 'nature of business' categories:

- 82990 (Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified)
- 93199 (Other sports activities)

We have not identified any companies receiving a grant that fall into category 01700 (Hunting, trapping and related service activities).

The data we have provided included companies that have received a grant from the Small Business Grant Fund or the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Fund, and provides information on how much the company has received and the date that it was paid.

I can confirm that North West Leicestershire District Council holds the names and information redacted from document 1227a. However, the information will not be released since it is exempt from disclosure 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.

To apply the exemption under section 31, we are obliged to undertake a public interest test. There is a heightened risk of fraud currently and revealing the names of businesses may enable fraudsters to identify businesses that have not yet received a grant and submit fraudulent applications.

In this case, it is considered that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it and that therefore the information is exempt from release because information regarding empty properties could be used for criminal purposes.

If you still require this information we could look at providing it to you once the funds have closed, which currently set to be on 28 August 2020.

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.

Yours sincerely

Mackenzie Keatley
Information Governance Officer