

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12

The Feedback and Information Governance Team (FIGT) is part of Haringey's Chief Executive's Service. They are responsible for ensuring Haringey's compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Environmental Information Regulations.

The Freedom of Information (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. Responses within 20 days

Public authorities are obliged to reply to FOI/EIR requests within 20 days.

Between April 2011 and March 2012 we responded to a total of 1039 requests. We responded to 74% of requests within 20 days. The table below shows how this compares to previous years.

Year	No. of requests	% on time
2011-2012	1039	74%
2010-2011	875	75%
2009-2010	822	81%
2008-2009	779	86%
2007-2008	499	83%
2006-2007	509	73%
2005-2006	505	65%

2. Outcomes, where information not given

Outcome	April-Oct	Oct-March	Total
Information not held	19	30	49
Info not given, exempt	45	63	108
Info not given, cost	15	8	23
Info not given, vexatious request	6	9	15
Invalid Request	86	89	175
Partial info given, exempt	19	Not recorded	19
Partial info given, cost	22	Not recorded	22
Partial info given, vexatious	1	Not recorded	1
Partial information given, rest not held	19	Not recorded	19
Not assigned	43	0	43

(The figures are provided for two time periods because we changed database in September 2012 and as part of that, changed how we record information about FOI and EIR requests).

3. Refusals and exemptions

The FOI Act and EIRs contains exemptions that allow public authorities to withhold information in certain cases. We applied exemptions in 106 cases last year. These were as follows:

Exemption	Number of times used
	SAP
FOI Act	
Section 21 – <i>Info accessible by some other means</i>	25
Section 22 – <i>Intended for future publication</i>	5
Section 31 – <i>Law Enforcement</i>	31
Section 40 – <i>Personal Information</i>	31
Section 42 – <i>Legal Professional privilege</i>	1
Section 43 – <i>Commercial Interests</i>	3
EIRs	
Regulation 12 4 (b) - <i>Request is 'manifestly unreasonable'</i>	2
Regulation 12 4 (d) - <i>Information is in draft or is unfinished</i>	1
Regulation 12 5 (a) - <i>disclosure would adversely affect international relations, defence, national security or public safety</i>	1
Regulation 12 5 (b) – <i>disclosure would affect the course of justice,</i>	1
Regulation 12 5 (e) - <i>Commercial confidentiality provided by law</i>	2
Regulation 12 5 (f) - <i>disclosure would adversely affect the interests of a person who provided information where they were not obliged to provide the information</i>	1
Regulation 13 – <i>Personal Information</i>	2

4. Internal reviews and complaints about FOI/EIR responses

If a customer is unhappy with an FOI/EIR response or with the way we handled the request, they can ask for an Internal Review of their request.

We dealt with 68 in 2011-12.

The outcomes for those that we dealt with between 1 Oct 2011 and 31 March 2012 were as follows:

Decision	No.	%
Not Upheld	20	62.5%
Partly Upheld	4	12.5%
Upheld	8	25%

5. Information Commissioner's office enquiries

If the requester remains dissatisfied with the response they can approach the office of the Information Commissioner (ICO) to ask them to review our decision.

Since 1 October 2011 we have responded to 4 formal enquiries from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

The outcomes were as follows:

Two of the cases are awaiting formal closure and decision at the time of writing this report. One case was determined in favour of the Council, and the other was considered by the ICO to be withdrawn.

6. Services receiving most enquiries

Our Single Frontline service, within Place and Sustainability dealt with the largest number of enquiries: 222, and responded to 70% on time.

The second busiest service was Benefits and Local Taxation within Corporate Resources, who received 97 requests, responding to 81% on time.