

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Decision notice

Date: 28 February 2023

Public Authority: Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Address: The Pavilions
Clydach Vale
CF40 2XX

Decision

1. The complainant requested information from Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council ("the Council") relating to Cynon Valley Indoor Bowls Club being used as a Covid 19 vaccination centre.
2. The Commissioner considers that the Council has carried out adequate searches for the requested information. Therefore, the Commissioner's decision is that on the balance of probabilities, the Council has disclosed all the information it holds within the scope of the request.
3. The Commissioner does not require the Council to take any steps.

Request and response

4. The complainant made the following information request to the Council on 7 October 2022:

"I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would be interested in any information held by Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (RCTCBC) regarding the transfer of Conon Valley Indoor Bowls Club (CVIBC) to NHS Wales for use with covid 19.

- 1) Please will you advise me who determined on behalf of RCTCBC that that CVIBC will be used to administer the COVID 19 vaccinations.
- 2) When were all the councillors of RCTCBC advised of the above situation.
- 3) What other venues were deliberated when looking for a venue? And for what reasons was CVIBC selected.
- 4) What plans are in place to encourage existing members (who were fully paid up) when the club was closed, to return to the venue, also to publicise the bowls club to possible new members.
- 5) Why was Ty Trevithick not kept as the venue for the COVID 19 vaccinations?

This is an eight-rink venue, and if not the best in Wales certainly one of the best. I will hate to see the bowls club become a white elephant. Please will you reply to my request within the twenty days allowed."

5. The Council responded on 11 November 2022 and denied holding information within the scope of the request.
6. On 30 November 2022, the complainant requested an internal review. The Council provided the complainant with the outcome of its internal review on 4 January 2023 in which it provided the complainant with some information within the scope of part 3 of the request.

Reasons for decision

7. This reasoning covers whether the Council holds further information within the scope of the request.
8. The complainant considers the Council to hold further information within the scope of the request. The complainant considers that the Council would hold a paper trail for the use of Cynon Valley Indoor Bowls Club as a vaccination centre.
9. The Council considers that it has provided the complainant with all the information it holds within the scope of the request. The Council has provided the complainant with the names of venues that the Council considered to be potential vaccination centres as requested in part 3 of the request.

10. In its submissions to the Commissioner, the Council explained that any information it holds relating to the Covid 19 immunisation exercise is held in electronic files. The Council explained that it has reviewed all the emails and documents held within any electronic files containing information relating to the Covid 19 immunisation exercise however, with the exception of the names of potential vaccination centres, no information within the scope of the request was located.
11. The Council explained that when searching for information within the scope of the request, it was unable to consult the two main Council officers who were involved in the Covid 19 immunisation exercise as the officers are no longer employed by the Council. However, it stated that any information that would have been held by the two Council officers will have been uploaded to the Council's electronic files.
12. In its submissions to the Commissioner, the Council stated that as issues relating to the pandemic had to be dealt with swiftly, it holds very little information relating to the Covid 19 immunisation exercise. The Council explained that the majority of the decisions made relating to the Covid 19 immunisation exercise, such as the decision to use Cynon Valley Bowls Centre as a vaccination centre, were made verbally either over the telephone or in on-site meetings. Therefore, no information recording these decisions is held by the Council.
13. The Commissioner considers that the Council has carried out adequate searches for the requested information. Therefore, the Commissioner's decision is that on the balance of probabilities, the Council has disclosed all the information it holds within the scope of the request.

Right of appeal

14. 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

15. 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.
16. 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

Victoria James
Senior Case Officer
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF