

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Decision notice

Date: 11 July 2024

Public Authority: Rufford and Holmeswood Parish Council

Address: 7 Holmeswood Road
Holmeswood
Ormskirk
Lancashire
L40 1TY

Request:

The complainant requested the following information from Rufford and Holmeswood Parish Council on 12 April 2024:

"I would be grateful if you could forward the Code of Conduct or equivalent that all Local Parish Councillors sign when they become Parish Councillors and have to adhere to. I have a keen interest in the standards set down.

As you are aware I have made numerous requests for information without any joy, information that should be readily available to the people you represent. Therefore in order to conclude this matter I would like access to this information via the Freedom of information Act. I would like the following information to be emailed to me at [email address redacted] within the guideline 20 working days.

- 1) Full accounts for the Rufford and Parish Council for last accounting period.
- 2) A Copy of Section 2 of the Accounting Statement 2022/23 – the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022/23

3) An up to date list of Councillors – the Councillors under Democracy.westlancs.go.uk – isn't accurate

4) Neighbourhood CIL Annual Report for (2023) from financial reporting year 2022/23 – this report is required by Regulation 62A of the CIL Regulation 2010(amended).

5) Official Minutes of the last three parish council meetings. If not mentioned the follow up of the Mere Sands Meeting from last year.

6) Allowances claimed by the individual Councillors last financial year if not detailed in the accounts for the last year.”

Commissioner's Decision:

A public authority will breach section 10 of FOIA if it fails to respond to a request within 20 working days. Based on evidence available to the Commissioner, by the date of this notice the public authority has not issued a substantive response to this request. Therefore the Commissioner finds a breach of section 10.

Steps:

The public authority must provide a substantive response to the request in accordance with its obligations under FOIA.

The public authority must take this step within 30 calendar days of the date of this decision notice. Failure to comply may result in the Commissioner making written certification of this fact to the High Court pursuant to section 54 of FOIA and may be dealt with as a contempt of court.

Right of Appeal:

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: 0203 936 8963

Fax: 0870 739 5836

Email: grc@justice.gov.uk

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

Any Notice of Appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 28 (calendar) days of the date on which this decision notice is sent.

**Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF**