

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Decision notice

Date: 28 November 2024

Public Authority: London Borough of Croydon

Address: Bernard Weatherill House
8 Mint Walk
Croydon
CR0 1EA

Request:

The complainant requested the following information from London Borough of Croydon on 30 September 2024:

“According to 3.10 of the report to Cabinet on 17 May 2021, one of the criteria for the option then put forward to close five of the Borough's libraries was that all of those "buildings had maintenance requirements in the next three years that would require capital expenditure from the Council. Some of the remedial works were significant". That 'closure' option included South Norwood Library, where according to para 5.1 the estimated cost of future repair and maintenance stood at £420,000.

Through previous FOI requests, the Council has released copies of condition surveys carried out on (only) five libraries (Bradmore Green, Broad Green, Purley, Sanderstead and Shirley). The surveys include the costs of the works deemed required at the time (2019-21).

+++ Please provide copies of any similar condition surveys (and costings) regarding the other eight libraries, including that at South Norwood.

+++ Please also provide details of the costs of these surveys and where the funds came from.”

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**

