

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Decision notice

Date: 29 April 2025

Public Authority: Somerset Council

Address: County Hall
Tauton
Somerset
TA1 4DY

1. Request:

The complainant requested the following information from Somerset Council on 21 January 2025:

'I would like to know the following details regarding Dillington House, near Ilminster:

1. The total cost incurred by Somerset Council in activating a break clause in the lease for Dillington House.
2. The total cost to return all aspects of the business to the owner.
3. The cost of staff redundancies related to Dillington House.
4. The total cost of Dillington House and associated operations to Somerset Council (and formerly Somerset County Council) from 2013 to 30 September 2023.
5. The overall profit/loss Somerset Council (and formerly Somerset County Council) made from exiting the clause related to Dillington House.'

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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**