



Further to your information request FOI/EIR 25/26-140, please find your question and our response below.

Request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am writing to request information regarding the provision of household rubbish bags by East Cambridgeshire District Council. Please provide the following information for the most recent financial year for which data is available (e.g., 2023/24 or 2024/25):

1. Expenditure on rubbish bags: The total amount of money the council has spent on purchasing and providing households with rubbish bags.
2. Budgetary context: What percentage of the council's overall annual budget and/or the waste disposal budget does this expenditure on rubbish bags represent?
3. Efficiencies: Any reports, assessments, or internal communications that detail the efficiencies the council believes it gains from providing standardised rubbish bags.
4. Sustainability: Any analysis or data the council holds on how the provision of specific types of rubbish bags contributes to its sustainability goals, given that residents are not limited to the 52 bags provided by the council and can buy more themselves and are therefore not limited to the number of bags collected per week.

Response:

East Cambs Street Scene (ECSS) is the company owned by East Cambridgeshire District Council contracted to provide the recycling and waste service across the district. The information requested is contained, in detail, within our new service proposals which were agreed by Council in October last year:

[Committee Report](#)

[Agenda Item 9 App 1 Waste and Street Cleansing Service Proposals.pdf](#)

1. 2024/25 - £79,000 (detailed on page 2 of the App 1 linked above and attached)
2. Black sacks are not purchased by the Council; they are purchased by ECSS. ECSS is funded by a management fee from the Council, but this is not broken down (within the Council) to a level that would identify the sacks as a specific expenditure item. This information is therefore refused under Section 12(4)(a) Information Not Held.
3. The Council is moving to black bins for household waste, as it recognises that black bags are not as efficient and do not incentivise recycling. Please see the Committee Report and App 1 above and attached.
4. This is discussed in the Committee Report linked above and attached.

The Council considers that the requested information falls within the Environmental Information Regulations ("EIR"), which relate to information on activities affecting or likely to affect the elements and factors of the environment.

In respect of those requests that were answered in full or partially and the total refused please take this as notice under FOIA, that we:

- a) Consider the information as exempt from disclosure under the Act;
- b) Claim exempt under sections of the Act:

Section 12(4)(a) – Information Not Held

- c) State why the exemption applies:

Regulation 12 (4) a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that (a) it does not hold that information when an applicant's request is received.

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 25/26-140.

If information has been refused, please treat this as a Refusal Notice for the purposes of the Act.

If you disagree with our decision or are otherwise unhappy with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you may approach foi@eastcambs.gov.uk and request a review. A request for review must be made in no more than 40 working days from the date of this email.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under s50 of the Freedom of Information Act to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.