



Reference: FOI0612

Request:

1. Does the council or its contractors currently use glyphosate-based weedkillers?
2. Does the council have any internal guidance on where and how glyphosate-based weedkillers should be used? If yes please attach a copy of the guidance to your return email.
3. Can you give me all addresses or types of location (eg park, school playing field etc) where glyphosate-based weedkillers are used by the council? Glyphosate is used borough wide to control weeds.
4. How much has the council spent on glyphosate-based weedkillers for the financial years:
5. How many complaints has the council received for its use (or its contractors' use) of glyphosate-based weedkillers in the financial years:
 - a. 2014-15
 - b. 2015-16
 - c. 2016-17
 - d. 2017-18

Response:

1. Yes
2. Guidance is included on the label of the product, this is followed by the operator. Integrated weed control is practiced by the grounds maintenance team. Standards are set for our weed control contractor and all our in house operators are appropriately trained. The most effective and efficient approach to weed control is taken not just financially but in other ways such as carbon use. Integrated management does not mean chemicals are not used, often are the correct choice, but we do ensure alternatives are considered.

The weed control contractor is to use spot treatment and target weeds only. Infra red technology is being pursued to improve on this further.

3. See attached spreadsheet
4. 2014-15: £2,830
2015-16: £4,698

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2016-17: £5,195

2017-18: £5,429

5. There have been 1210 complaints to Grounds Maintenance during the period in question. To establish if any one of them related to this type of weed killer would require a manual search of each individual record; this would, unfortunately, exceed the appropriate limit for FOI's as set out in the legislation.

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