



Reference: FOI2279

Request:

I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). I'm seeking to identify the number of complaints made by neighbours about high hedges, trees or plants.

The questions I have are as follows:

Q1. In the following time periods, please provide the total number of complaints logged regarding a neighbour's high hedges, trees or plants under Part 8 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003:

2017

Private - 0

2018

Private - 1

2019

Private - 1

Q2. In the following time periods, please provide the number of complaints that were settled / resolved regarding a neighbour's hedges, trees or plants:

2017

Private - N/A

2018

Private - 18/00960/HEDGE - the decision stated that no remedial action was required.

2019

Private - 19/01226/HEDGE - the complainant was advised that the hedge in question could not be considered under the high hedge application procedure.

Q3. In the following time periods, please provide the number of complaints that were rejected because the complainant had not followed the Government's 'over the garden hedge' guidance:

2017

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Private - N/A as none submitted.

2018

Private - 0

2019

Private - 1

Q4. Please state how much income you generated from payments related to handling disputes related to high hedges, trees or plants in the following time periods:

2017

Private - £0

2018

Private - £340.00

2019

Private - £0

Q5. In the following time periods, please provide the fines or instances where the council has to complete remedial work where a remedial notice was not acted upon?

Year

2017

Private - None

2018

Private - None

2019

Private - None

Fines issued

2017

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Private - None

2018

Private - None

2019

Private - None

Council enforcement of remedial notices e.g. council entering land to carry out required work

2017

Private - None

2018

Private - None

2019

Private - None

For Council Properties - we are unable to provide this information.

The system used to record neighbour complaints for Council tenants does not have a case type specifically for overgrown hedges. All would be recorded under the general category, "overgrown gardens". In the period being requested there has been over 1400 cases that would require somebody to search each individual record to determine if the subject matter is high hedge/tree/plants and any outcomes.

Therefore, this part of the request is refused under s12 (1) Freedom of Information Act 2000, since the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

In assessing the cost of complying, the costs attributable to officer time involved in complying have been considered. Such costs are limited to £450.00 under the Regulations, which equates to eighteen hours of officer time.

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