

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Decision notice

Date: 7 July 2022

Public Authority: Anston Parish Council

Address: The Parish Hall
15a Ryton Road
North Anston
Sheffield
S25 4DL

Decision

1. The complainant requested information from Anston Parish Council ("the Council") relating to advice sought by the Council from Yorkshire Local Councils Association (YLCA). The Commissioner's decision is that Council has disclosed all the information it holds within the scope of the request.

Request and response

2. The complainant made the following information request to the Council on 24 October 2021:

"Please could you provide me with copies of all correspondence (both written and electronic) between Anston Parish Council and Yorkshire Local Councils Association from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020."

3. The final position of the Council was that it has provided all the information it holds within the scope of the request.

Reasons for decision

4. This reasoning covers whether the Council stated correctly that it holds no further information falling within the scope of the complainant's request to that which it disclosed.
5. The complainant considers that the Council holds further information within the scope of their request. Specifically, the complainant considers the Council to hold further information relating to advice sought by the Council from YLCA regarding the non-attendance of councillors.
6. The Council's position is that it has disclosed all the information it holds within the scope of the request. The Council has provided an explanation as to why it does not hold any information relating to advice it sought from YLCA regarding the non-attendance of councillors.
7. The Council explained that whilst it did ask YLCA for advice about councillors being disqualified through non-attendance, it did not request that advice in writing. The Council asked YLCA for advice during an online discussion forum run by YLCA during the pandemic. The Council explained that it does not hold any minutes or notes from the meeting or recordings of the meeting.
8. The Commissioner accepts the Council's reasoning for not holding further information within the scope of the request. On this basis, his conclusion is that on the balance of probabilities the Council disclosed to the complainant all the information it held within the scope of the above information request. The Commissioner requires no further action to be taken by the Council in relation to this request.

Right of appeal

9. 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: 0300 1234504

Fax: 0870 739 5836

Email: grc@justice.gov.uk

Website: www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber

10. If you wish to appeal against a decision notice, you can obtain information on how to appeal along with the relevant forms from the Information Tribunal website.
11. Any Notice of Appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 28 (calendar) days of the date on which this decision notice is sent.

Signed

Ben Tomes
Group Manager
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF