

## **Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR)**

### **Decision notice**

**Date:** 4 September 2023

**Public Authority:** Ackworth Parish Council

**Address:** Community Centre  
Bell Lane  
Ackworth  
Pontefract  
WF7 7JH

#### **Decision (including any steps ordered)**

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1. The complainant requested information from Ackworth Parish Council relating to a proposed pedestrian crossing in Ackworth. By the date of this notice the public authority had not issued a substantive response to this request.
2. The Commissioner's decision is that the public authority has failed to respond to the request within 20 working days and has therefore breached regulation 5(2) of the EIR.
3. The Commissioner requires the the public authority to take the following steps to ensure compliance with the legislation.
  - Issue a substantive response to the request in accordance with its obligations under the EIR.
4. The public authority must take these steps within 35 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 the Freedom of Information Act and may be dealt with as a contempt of court.

## **Request and response**

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5. On 7 February 2023, the complainant made the following request for information to the public authority:  
  
"All emails, letters, reports, faxes, file notes, notes of phone calls, videos, audio, digital recordings, Minutes of meetings and notes or photographs taken at site visits or at any other meetings, pertaining to the proposed pedestrian crossing on the A638 Wakefield Road at Ackworth for the past 12 months."
6. The complainant repeated the request in a chaser message sent on 22 July 2023.

## **Reasons for decision**

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7. Regulation 5(1) of the EIR states that:  
  
"a public authority that holds environmental information shall make it available on request."
8. Regulation 5(2) of the EIR states that:  
  
"Information shall be made available under paragraph (1) as soon as possible and no later than 20 working days after the date of receipt of the request."
9. The Commissioner contacted the public authority on 16 August 2023 reminding it of its responsibilities and asking it to provide a substantive response to the complainant within 10 working days. Despite this intervention the public authority has failed to respond to the complainant.
10. From the evidence provided to the Commissioner in this case, it is clear that the public authority did not deal with the request for information in accordance with the EIR. The Commissioner's decision is that the public authority has breached regulation 5(2) by failing to respond to the request within 20 working days and it is now required to respond to the request in accordance with the EIR.

## **Right of appeal**

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11. 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](mailto:grc@justice.gov.uk)

Website: [www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber](http://www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber)

12. 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.
13. 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 .....**

**Michael Lea**  
**Team Manager**  
**Information Commissioner's Office**  
**Wycliffe House**  
**Water Lane**  
**Wilmslow**  
**Cheshire**  
**SK9 5AF**