

**DRAFT - PROTECT**

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)  
Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR)  
Decision notice**

**Date:** 7 May 2024

**Public Authority:** London Borough of Hackney  
**Address:** Town Hall  
Mare Street  
London  
E8 1EA

**Decision (including any steps ordered)**

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1. The complainant requested information from the London Borough of Hackney (the public authority). 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.<sup>1</sup>
4. The public authority must take these steps within 30 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

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<sup>1</sup> The Commissioner expects the public authority to take appropriate precautions to protect any personal data when disclosing information in a spreadsheet or similar format;  
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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 25 January 2024, the complainant made the following request for information to the public authority:

“Please can the Council prove details of how many current social housing developments it has had to stop building work on in the last 12 months due to lack of funds.

The definition of current social housing developments being new housing projects the council had officially announced and had begun to start work on to add to it’s housing stock, even if only in the early stages e.g. removing any current tenants living on the site to begin building work.

1. Can the council provide the names of these developments and their location
2. a. when the building work on the relevant developments was due to complete
- b. when the work had to be curtailed
- c. how much the development was due to cost (had it been completed) and
- d. how much it actually costed before work was called off.”

**Reasons for decision**

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6. Regulation 5(1) of the EIR states that:

“a public authority that holds environmental information shall make it available on request.”

7. 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.”

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8. The Commissioner contacted the public authority on 4 April 2024 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.
9. 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.

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**Right of appeal**

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10. 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)

11. 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.
12. Any Notice of Appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 28 (calendar) days of the date on which this decision notice is sent.

**Roger Cawthorne**  
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**Information Commissioner's Office**  
**Wycliffe House**  
**Water Lane**  
**Wilmslow**  
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