

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 13 JULY 2022

Question from David Ingham to Councillor S Spencer, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Budget.

“At Full Council in December 2021 I raised a query associated to a disciplinary FOI and three officer complaints. On 12th May 2022 a Decision Notice regarding DCC was issued, published by ICO on their website. Following the Centralisation of HR and record archiving, obtaining disciplinary case numbers and decision statistics for even a 12-month period now takes longer than 18 hours to process. Consequently, the Council chose to apply an exemption based on time factor meaning no response had to be provided.

Even if ICO acknowledges a requester's view information sought is in the public interest, as was in this case, the exemption can still be relied upon.

The Decision Notice clearly illustrates the hidden cost of having to respond to officer/member internal questions that necessitate the access of archived data/council systems. As a publicly declared transparent Council how can system cost/time access issues be addressed/FOI barriers reduced?”