

Freedom of Information Requests relating to Covid 19, SARs and any other type information relating to whether other viruses/diseases exists and testing/research information.

Introduction

Derby City Council has received several information requests relating to Covid 19, SARs and the existence of various other viruses/diseases.

Information not held

The Council does not hold the information relating to whether any specific virus or disease exist or testing/research information.

It is the responsibility of the [Government/UK Health Security Agency](#) whether specific health conditions/viruses exist and to issue national guidance/policies about how to deal with them.

Section 14(1) Vexatious Exemption

This exemption also applies to any information request relating to Covid 19, SARs and any other type information relating to whether other viruses/diseases exists and testing/research information.

Section 14 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) allows public authorities to classify requests as vexatious. In such circumstances a public authority **is not obliged to comply with the request.**

Section 14(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) provides:

“14. Vexatious

(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the request is vexatious.”

We consider these type of requests to be vexatious for the following reasons.

1. Motive

The requests are based on the opinions of specific individuals, groups or organisations that specific viruses/diseases do not exist and disagree with Government’s policies/actions to address them. It is not the Council’s responsible to advise whether viruses/diseases exist and have determined the motive for these requests are to waste our time/resources to deal with them.



2. Abusive or aggressive language

The requests include unfounded accusations/health claims/legal action which is aimed at harassing the Council or individual officers.

3. Deliberate intention to cause annoyance

The [services we provide](#) are publicly accessible on our website. Our responsibilities do not include researching or advising whether specific viruses/diseases exist. As this is the case we have determined that these type of request are aimed at causing annoyance to the Council or individual officers.

Although you may be disappointed by our decision, we would stress that this protection exists within the legislation in order to ensure that applicants use their rights to seek information responsibly and public authorities are not wasting valuable time and resources dealing with requests that have no clear purpose.

Please note that it is the request not the applicant which is considered vexatious.

