

From: Foi Enquiries
Sent: 05 February 2019 14:53
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI-19-0041 - Gypsy and Traveller
Attachments: V2 - Further Information - Right to Review & Appeal.pdf

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your information request of 8 January 2019. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has completed the necessary search for the information requested. Our response is now detailed below.

1. How many Gypsy and Traveller unauthorised encampments have you cleared from the local authority in:

i) 2015

11 court actions taken on ACC land

80 Caravans

ii) 2016

6 court actions taken on ACC land

39 Caravans

iii) 2017

No actions

iv) 2018

3 court actions taken on ACC land

12 Caravans

(if possible please name them)

2. In relation to the cleared encampments listed in question one, how many pitches were in each cleared encampment. (If you do not know, please state whether, to the best of your knowledge, there were any individuals or families living in the cleared encampments.)

There is no pitches on unauthorised encampments, please see the response to Question 1 for total caravans.

3. How many NEW authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches were created by your local authority in:

i) 2015: 0

ii) 2016: 0

iii) 2017: 0

iv) 2018: 0

(if possible please name them)

4. How many authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches are there currently in your local authority?

1 ACC Gypsy Traveller Site which consists of 21 pitches

1 Private Gypsy Traveller Site which consists of 8 pitches

5. What were the full evictions costs to your council for all cleared unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller encampments in:

i) 2015: £5,351.66

ii) 2016: £2,259.56

iii) 2017: £1,647.98

iv) 2018: £600.00

Please note the above costs only include court costs, sheriff officer cost and clean-up costs.

(These costs should include staff costs and resources, any contractor costs, court costs and legal fees, clear up costs as well as any other costs relating to evictions from unauthorised encampments.)

6. How much money was spent in the creation of authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches and sites in:

i) 2015: 0

ii) 2016: 0

iii) 2017: 0

iv) 2018: 0

7. Are you considering or are there any plans in place to seek a court injunction against unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller encampments sites in your local authority? If you already have an injunction or already have an application in please state.

There is currently no court injunctions in place and we are not looking in the meantime to seek any court injunctions.

8. When was the last time you undertook a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Need Assessment?

A GTANA was undertaken in 2017.

9. What was the need identified by your authority's most recent Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Need Assessment for new pitches, and what period does this GTANA cover?

There were 6 recommendations within the report for 2017:

1. A review of the approach of including the provision of Gypsy/Traveller sites as part of wider housing/accommodation developments (e.g. within Local Development Plans). Although this may not have been successful in the past, the mechanism seems to offer one of the best opportunities in terms of resourcing and planning. Consideration should also be given as to how new sites, and repairs to existing sites, will be funded.
2. Looking at how Gypsy & Traveller communities can realise aspirations with respect to private site development, including working in partnership with agencies such as Planning Aid Scotland. A relatively small investment in this area could lead to a significant change in outcomes for those who want to develop their own sites, and for the community more generally.
3. Working with Gypsy & Traveller communities to explore options for improving the management of encampments¹ and the potential for developing more informal stopping places, e.g. those historically used by Gypsy & Traveller communities before being closed off.
4. Agree joint protocols for data gathering around encampments and needs assessment on an on-going basis. This will allow for richer data and evidence to be developed, which in turn should support the process of site development in the future.
5. The Scottish Government's Race Equality Action Plan (and associated Framework) should be used as a means to drive forward action at a local level, as well to continue, and enhance, joint working at a regional level. The inclusion of a specific section on Gypsy/Travellers should also allow for joint working, partnership and input at a national level.
6. Initiatives to improve relations between Gypsy & Traveller communities and settled communities. It is clear from the national Scottish Attitudinal Survey and the Aberdeen Viewpoint Survey that negative opinions about Gypsy & Traveller communities remain at a significant level. For long-term positive outcomes this is an issue that will need to be addressed.

We hope this helps with your request.

Yours sincerely,

Access to Information Team

INFORMATION ABOUT THE HANDLING OF YOUR REQUEST

ACC handled your request for information in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Please refer to the attached PDF for more information about your rights under FOISA.



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