

From: Foi Enquiries
Sent: 15 March 2019 15:13
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI-19-0258 - Rationing
Attachments: V2 - Further Information - Right to Review & Appeal.pdf

Importance: High

Dear [REDACTED],

Please accept our sincerest apologies for the delay in responding to your information request of 12 February 2019. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has completed the necessary search for the information requested. Our response is now detailed below.

1/ Does the council have plans or a framework in place to handle a situation where Food and Medicines need to be Rationed? (this could be or any situation, eg natural disaster/war).

No.

2/ if there is a shortage of food in society, do the council help with the stockpiling of food?

Yes.

3/ Has the council made any plans for Rationing in case of a No-deal brexit?

Please see our response at 1. above.

4/ If Ration books are to be used by society (uk), would they be printed by the council or Government?

ACC is unable to provide you with information on **If Ration books are to be used by society (uk), would they be printed by the council or Government** as it is not held by ACC. In order to comply with its obligations under the terms of Section 17 of the FOISA, ACC hereby gives notice that this information is not held by it.

5/ in the case of a 'no deal' brexit, what plans to the council have in place?

The Council's Corporate Management Team has established a Steering Group, chaired by the Director of Resources, to identify, plan and manage the impacts of an EU Exit affecting the Council and its Partner Organisations. The Group has oversight of all the risks associated with EU Exit, including shortages of food and medical supplies and is actively planning to mitigate and control these risks. These plans are currently active and incomplete due to the ongoing current EU exit process.

ACC is unable to provide you with information on **what plans the council have in place** as it is exempt from disclosure. In order to comply with its obligations under the terms of Section 16 of the FOISA, ACC hereby gives notice that we are refusing your request under the terms of Section 35(1)(a) – Law Enforcement - of the FOISA.

Section 35(1)(a) states that information is exempt from disclosure if its release would, or would be likely to prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and/or the apprehension of prosecution of offenders.

Any information released under FOISA is placed in the public domain and as such, we have to consider the potential consequences of releasing this information at this time. The release of information in relation to any plans currently being worked on and discussed by the Steering Group at this time would allow any persons interested in profiting from, disrupting or exploiting the process to identify ways in which to do so. As a result, disclosure of this information would impact on crime prevention and any subsequent Police investigations.

To provide this level of detail would be irresponsible considering that the information held is incomplete, in draft format and is

an active, changing document impacted upon by the EU exit process.

ACC recognises that there is a level of public interest in reassuring the public that Aberdeen City Council are actively planning for the possibility of a 'no deal' Brexit. To this end, we have provided our responses above.

However, ACC considers that there is no public interest in releasing information which is incomplete, subject to constant revision, and would provide those persons looking to exploit the situation with information to do so.

It is also considered that this information may be exempt under Section 30(c) – Prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs – of the FOISA.

The release of working documents at this time, coupled with the concerns raised above, would mean that the Steering Group would have to revise their plans in their entirety to mitigate any impact that the release of this information may have. This would have a significant impact on the work of the Steering Group at this crucial time.

We hope this helps with your request.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Buchan
Access to Information Officer

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.



Anna Buchan | Access to Information Officer

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