

From: [Foi Enquiries](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: EIR-17-0669 - Ash Trees
Date: 16 May 2017 08:30:22
Attachments: [Further Information - Right to Review & Appeal.pdf](#)

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your information request of 3 May 2017. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has completed the necessary search for the information requested.

1. How many roadside ash trees are there within your council boundary? If a total number is not known, have any surveys of numbers of roadside ash been carried out within your boundary and if so, what were the results? (For clarity, by "roadside ash" I am referring to ash trees (any Fraxinus species) that are close enough to a road that they could potentially fall onto or drop debris onto the road.)

Total number is not known. There are very few 'street' trees but there are ash trees that are close enough to the road to drop on the road should they fall. However, no survey has been done on these trees.

ACC is unable to provide you with information on **How many roadside ash trees are there within your council boundary and the results of any surveys of numbers of roadside ash carried out within your boundary** as it is not held by the Council. In order to comply with its obligations under the terms of Regulation 10(4)(a) - Information Not Held - of the EIRs, ACC hereby gives notice that this information is not held by it. ACC is required by Regulation 10(1)(b) of the EIRs to inform you as to why in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining this exception outweighs the public interest in disclosing this information to you. ACC is satisfied that it does not hold this information and considers that, as there is no information held, the public interest lies with the exception.

2. How many urban ash trees are there within your boundary, and what is the breakdown of these between public and private property? If this is not known, how many trees of any species are there within your boundary?

This figure regarding ash trees is not known. The city council has about 100,000 trees and about 1000 acres of woodland.

ACC is unable to provide you with information on **How many urban ash trees are there within your boundary, and what is the breakdown of these between public and private property and how many trees of any species are there within your boundary** as it is not held by the Council. In order to comply with its obligations under the terms of Regulation 10(4)(a) - Information Not Held - of the EIRs, ACC hereby gives notice that this information is not held by it. ACC is required by Regulation 10(1)(b) of the EIRs to inform you as to why in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining this exception outweighs the public interest in disclosing this information to you. ACC is satisfied that it does not hold this information and considers that, as there is no information held, the public interest lies with the exception.

3. If known, what is the total area of parks, gardens, greens and common land within your boundary?

Total area is 1816 Hectares.

4. What was the total amount of money spent by your council on insuring trees in the last financial year (2016-17)?

Aberdeen City Council do not specifically insure trees.

And what was the total amount spent on public liability insurance overall?

This is commercially sensitive information.

ACC is unable to provide you with information on **the total amount spent on public liability insurance overall** as it is excepted from disclosure. In order to comply with its obligations under the terms of Regulation 13 of the EIRs, ACC hereby gives notice that we are refusing your request under the terms of Regulation 10(5)(e) of the EIRs.

In making this decision ACC considered the following points:

In making this decision ACC considered the following points:

- The public liability premium that Aberdeen City pay to our insurer is a block policy covering all types of risks posed to the public. The disclosure of this premium would be potentially harmful to the Council - if our renewal premium were too high, we may have to go back out to tender
- Public knowledge of the price we pay for public liability insurance would put us at a disadvantage if we had to go through this process, as it could reduce competition and mean that we would not be able to obtain best value for the Council.

We hope this helps with your request.

Yours sincerely,

Grant Webster
Information Compliance Officer

INFORMATION ABOUT THE HANDLING OF YOUR REQUEST

As the information which you requested is environmental information, as defined under Regulation 2(1) of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (the EIRs), ACC considered that it was exempt from release through FOISA, and must therefore give you notice that we are refusing your request under Section 39(2) of FOISA (Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002). However, you have a separate right to access the information which you have requested under Regulation 5 of the EIRs, under which ACC has handled your request. Please refer to the attached PDF for more information about your rights under the EIRs.

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