

From: [Foi Enquiries](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: EIR-16-0202 - Parking Permits
Date: 31 March 2016 15:05:32
Attachments: [Further Information - Right to Review & Appeal.pdf](#)
[EIR_16_0074_ParkingSpacesandPermits_Redacted.pdf](#)

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your clarified information request of 2 March 2016. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has completed the necessary search for the information requested.

These questions relate to parking permits issued [i.e. valid] since January 2013 up until December 2015. Please provide results per month. Please give a breakdown of results for each council parking permit zone. How many active parking permits were there? Please provide a breakdown for each type of parking permit e.g. residential, business or contractor.

ACC is unable to provide you with information on **a breakdown of the number of active parking permits broken down per month, per parking zone, for each type of parking permit over the period January 2013 to December 2015** as it is exempted 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(4)(b) – Manifestly Unreasonable - of the EIRs.

In making this decision ACC considered the following points:

Is the request manifestly unreasonable?

ACC is of the view that the information requested is manifestly unreasonable under the terms of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

The request must impose a significant burden on ACC, be manifestly unreasonable or disproportionate

ACC is of the view that providing the breakdown information requested would require a disproportionate amount of time and the diversion of an unreasonable proportion of ACC's resources away from its parking appeals operations.

To explain this, the parking/permit electronic system does not generate automatic reports for this level of breakdown information, meaning that spreadsheets would need to be produced and data manually extracted and pulled together. A report would have to be created for each of the permit types (2 types of business parking permits and 2 types of residential parking permits) and then converted to Excel. This involves creating reports for each permit type for each month requested. The reports would then be required to be converted onto Excel spreadsheets for each of the 3 years requested. This involves producing 4 reports and 5 spreadsheets for each month for each of the individual 22 parking zones. This equates to 3,168 spreadsheets which would need to be manually worked through in order to provide the breakdown figures.

The Parking Appeals Team is responsible for ACC's Parking and Bus Lane Appeals. There is only one officer (the team leader) out of seven council officers in the Team who has the required skill and knowledge to undertake this work to provide the breakdown information. The time involved would mean that the team leader would have to devote a significant amount of time away from their day to day work, which would have a negative impact on ACC's core parking appeals operations. The Team is responsible for dealing with adjudicator cases within strict timescales and so spending the time to provide the information would prevent ACC from being able to contest Appeals Cases at the Parking Adjudicator's, resulting in ACC losing cases. There would also be a negative impact on the Team being able to pursue unpaid penalties within the statutory timescales allowed and process appeals within a reasonable time to prevent backlogs from occurring.

Has ACC provided reasonable advice and assistance to the applicant?

The information which ACC is able to easily provide is the information provided in response to [EIR-16-0074 – Parking Spaces and Permits](#) (attached).

There are also other responses on ACC's online Disclosure Logs which may be of interest:

2016 Disclosure Log:

http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/council_government/dp_foi/freedom_information/DisclosureLog2016/parking_2016.asp

2015 Disclosure Log:

http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/council_government/dp_foi/freedom_information/DisclosureLog2015/parking_2015.asp

2014 Disclosure Log:

http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/council_government/dp_foi/freedom_information/disclosurelog2014/parking_2014.asp

2013 Disclosure Log:

http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/council_government/dp_foi/freedom_information/DisclosureLog2013/parking_2013.asp

What are the public interest arguments?

ACC recognises that there is a public interest in maintaining a level of transparency around the way it manages parking in Aberdeen City. To this end, ACC has published responses to other parking-related requests on its online Disclosure Logs at the above web links.

However, in this instance, ACC is of the view that the public interest in maintaining the manifestly unreasonable exception outweighs this general public interest, given the time required by the team leader to provide the information and the impact this would have on the service delivered by the Parking Appeals Team.

We hope this helps with your request.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Buchan

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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