

From: [Foi Enquiries](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI-16-0335 - Domestic Violence
Date: 12 April 2016 13:31:30
Attachments: [Further Information - Right to Review & Appeal.pdf](#)

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your information request of 15 March 2016. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has completed the necessary search for the information requested.

Please could you provide me with the following information:

1. The following information for refuges for victims of domestic violence exclusively available to men:

- 1. The number of refuges in the council's area of governance,**
- 2. The total capacity of those refuges, and**
- 3. The amount of money spent by councils on those refuges in 2015. Ideally, I am looking for the amount of money spent in the calendar year 2015; if that is not possible, then please provide the amount of money spent in the financial year 2014/2015.**

None.

2. The following information for refuges for victims of domestic violence exclusively available to women:

- 1. The number of refuges in the council's area of governance,**

Two.

- 2. The total capacity of those refuges, and**

11 total spaces (7 and 4).

- 3. The amount of money spent by councils on those refuges in 2015. Clarification: Ideally, I am looking for the amount of money spent in the calendar year 2015; if that is not possible, then please provide the amount of money spent in the financial year 2014/2015.**

The total budget for Housing Support services within Support Services, which includes the refuges for victims of domestic violence, is £3,201,914.50 in 2015/16.

ACC is unable to provide you with information on **The amount of money spent by councils on those refuges in 2015** 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 33(1)(b) – Commercial Interests - of the FOISA.

In making this decision ACC considered the following points:

The requested information is commercially sensitive information as it relates to a contract between Grampian Women's Aid and Aberdeen City Council. Releasing this information may harm Grampian Women's Aid commercial interests when tendering for future services within

Aberdeen and other local authorities. It may also harm ACC's ability to operate in a competitive market as any potential future bidders will have an awareness of how much ACC is willing to spend. This will allow a competitive advantage in future tendering exercises and will not allow the open competition which will afford best value for the council.

ACC acknowledges that there is a public interest in how it spends its money, in the case of 'following the public pound'. To this end, we publish a great deal of financial information on our website. ACC also recognises that there is a general public interest in openness and transparency around how ACC's spends public money. ACC also recognises that third parties who deal with ACC should expect that some of their information would become available in the public domain.

However, ACC believes that the public interest in disclosing the above information is limited and that, in this case, there is a stronger public interest in withholding the information.

The third parties commercial interests would be impeded by the release of this information as would the commercial interests of Aberdeen City Council. The reason for this is that costings are individually negotiated and the release of these details would prejudice future negotiations. If this information is freely available then there is no market for competitive pricing, thus vendors would introduce a fixed pricing structure which would be to the detriment of Aberdeen City Council and the public, in terms of ensuring best value. It is therefore not in the public interest to disclose this information.

3. The following information for refuges for victims of domestic violence available to both men and women:

- 1. The number of refuges in the council's area of governance,**
- 2. The total capacity of those refuges, and**
- 3. The amount of money spent by councils on those refuges in 2015. Clarification: Ideally, I am looking for the amount of money spent in the calendar year 2015; if that is not possible, then please provide the amount of money spent in the financial year 2014/2015.**

None.

We hope this helps with your request.

Yours sincerely,

Grant Webster
Information Compliance 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.

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