

From: Freedom of Information Requests

Sent: 15 May 2025 06:58

To:

Subject: EIR Response

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your Environmental Information Regulation request dated 14 April 2025 for information about crematorium electricity consumption. Please find below City of Doncaster Council's responses to the questions you have raised.

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act relating to the consumption and cost of electricity at Rosehill Crematorium, Doncaster, for the financial year 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Specifically, for each financial year, I would appreciate it if you could provide the following details:

1. In KWh, the total consumption of electricity for each year by each cremator.
2. In pounds sterling, the total expenditure on electricity for each year by each cremator.

Response

Regulation 12(4)(b) – Request is manifestly unreasonable

Basis for decision:

Regulation 12(4)(b) of the Environmental Information Regulations allows for a request for information to be refused where the cost of compliance with the request would be too great.

Why does the exception apply in this case?

The exception applies in this case because the City of Doncaster Council does not hold a central record of energy use per cremator, therefore in order to determine this information extensive calculations would need to be carried out. Every cremation varies by large margins with multiple factors changing the totals, ranging from weather conditions, temperature values, body mass, coffin construction and materials used, times for cremation, product and medicines used on the deceased, etc. Therefore each case, of which there are 2,783, will need to be reviewed. It is estimated that each case will require a 5 minute investigation resulting in a total time of approximately 231 hours which would exceed the time limit.

City of Doncaster Council is obliged to consider whether disclosure of the information would be in the public interest before refusing to supply the information. Therefore the City of Doncaster Council has taken the following factors into account:

Factors for disclosing information

- There is a need to ensure that the Council operates in an open and transparent manner
- We recognise that Council spend should be open to accountability
- The information may be of interest to some members of the public
- Members of the public will be more informed about the consumption and cost of electricity at Rosehill Crematorium

Factors for withholding information

- This request is considered burdensome to deal with as it would take a lot of council resources to review and collate the information requested

- Dealing with this request would disrupt the council's ability to perform its core functions by inhibiting officers from carrying out their duties which would detract from other council work and is considered unreasonable
 - There is a strong public interest to ensure that public resources are used cost-effectively, taking this time to deal with this request would place significant strain on public expense
3. In KWh, the total consumption of electricity for the crematorium building including energy used for cremation.
 4. In pounds sterling, the expenditure on electricity for the crematorium building including energy used for cremation.

Response

Electricity	2023/24	2024/25
KWH	141673	100547
£	£59,495.00	£31,299.00

Reviewing any decisions made:

If you are not happy with this reply you can ask us to review our response. To do this write to us within 40 working days of receiving your response at the address below or email FOIAppeals@doncaster.gov.uk

If you do not agree with the review decision you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision about our compliance or otherwise with the Freedom of Information legislation. Contact details for the ICO are: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. www.ico.org.uk Telephone 0303 123 1113.

Yours faithfully,

Ellen Dook

Information Governance Officer

Corporate Resources

City of Doncaster Council

Address Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU

Website www.doncaster.gov.uk