

From: Freedom of Information Requests
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2024 10:05 AM
To:
Subject: Freedom of Information Response -

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 24 June 2024 for information about schools catering service. Please find below City of Doncaster Council's responses to the questions you have raised.

1. What operating model do you currently adopt for your schools catering service? (eg. LA direct delivery model, or LA Managed Supplier Contract, or Managed by individual schools and academies, or Mixed economy model (ie. a combination of approaches)).

Response: Mixed Economy model with LA Direct delivery model available

LA direct delivery model only:

3. What was the net (surplus) / deficit position for the Local Authority's Schools Catering service for the last three financial years (ending 2022 - 2024)?

4. What were the total annual operating costs associated with running the Schools Catering business for the last three financial years (ending 2022 – 2024)?

Response: This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 43 of the Freedom of information Act. Section 43 exempts information from the right of access under the Freedom of Information Act if disclosure of the information would prejudice someone's commercial interests.

The City of Doncaster Council believe disclosure of this data would affect our commercial interests as we are operating in the competitive provision of school meals market as the supplier in the schools/academies as a LA provider. As school catering is an open market and schools/academies can tender for a provider/supplier, the City of Doncaster Council believes that the release of this information would be likely to cause commercial prejudice to our position in the market.

As Section 43 is a qualified exemption, the 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

- The council wishes to operate in an open and transparent way
- We recognise that decisions and plans should be open to accountability
- The information will be of interest to members of the public

Factors for withholding information

- Disclosure would be likely to adversely affect the council's commercial interests as disclosure of the information may weaken the position of the organisation in a competitive environment
- The information could be used by those competitors to gain a commercial advantage

Taking these factors into consideration, the City of Doncaster Council has decided that the reasons for withholding the information outweigh those for disclosing it and we will not be providing the information at this time.

Please be advised that City of Doncaster Council accounts are available on the website here: [Statement of Accounts - City of Doncaster Council](#). School catering traded in Corporate Services and then Place directorate from 2023.

5. How many schools does the local authority's catering service currently serve?

Response: 62

I hope that this information is useful to you.

The City of Doncaster Council estimates that it has cost £98 to respond to this request for information.

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.

Ellen Dook

Information Governance Officer

Corporate Resources

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