

Freedom of Information Act

Definition document for National Park Authorities, the Broads Authority and Conservation Boards

This guidance gives examples of the kinds of information that we would expect National Park Authorities, the Broads Authority and Conservation Boards to provide in order to meet their commitments under the model publication scheme.

We would expect these bodies to make the information in this definition document available unless:

- they do not hold the information;
- the information is exempt under one of the FOIA exemptions or Environmental Information Regulations exceptions, or its release is prohibited under another statute;
- the information is readily and publicly available from an external website; such information may have been provided either by the National Park Authority, Broads Authority or Conservation Board or on its behalf. The National Park Authority, Broads Authority or Conservation Board must provide a direct link to that information;
- the information is archived, out of date or otherwise inaccessible; or,
- it would be impractical or resource-intensive to prepare the material for routine release.

The guidance is not meant to give an exhaustive list of everything that should be covered by a publication scheme. The legal commitment is to the model publication scheme, and authorities should look to provide as much information as possible on a routine basis.

Publishing datasets for re-use

Public authorities must publish under their publication scheme any dataset they hold that has been requested, together with any updated versions, unless they are satisfied that it is not appropriate to do so. So far as reasonably practicable, they must publish it in an electronic form that is capable of re-use.

If the dataset or any part of it is a relevant copyright work and the public authority is the only owner, the public authority must make it available for re-use under the terms of a specified licence. Datasets in which the Crown owns the copyright or the database rights are not relevant copyright works.

The Datasets Code of Practice recommends that public authorities make datasets available for re-use under the [Open Government Licence](#).

The term 'dataset' is defined in section 11(5) of FOIA. The terms 'relevant copyright work' and 'specified licence' are defined in section 19(8) of FOIA. The ICO has published [guidance](#) on the dataset provisions in FOIA. This explains what is meant by "not appropriate" and "capable of re-use".

Who we are and what we do

Organisational information, structures, locations and contacts.

We would expect information in this class to be current information only.

- **Roles and responsibilities**

Authorities should be providing outline and detailed information about their roles and responsibilities, and the roles and responsibilities of people working in them at senior level.

- **Composition of the Authority or Board and any sub-committees**
- **Staffing structure**
- **Map of the area**
- **Outline of responsibilities**

Authorities should be providing both outline and detailed information about their roles and responsibilities and the roles and responsibilities of those working in them at senior level.

- **Opportunities for volunteers**
- **Offices and contact details**

The location and opening times of any offices open to the public. Where

possible, named contacts are preferable.

What we spend and how we spend it

Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, procurement, contracts and financial audit.

We would expect as a minimum that financial information for the current and previous two financial years should be available.

- **Revenue and capital plans**
- **Annual out-turn**
- **Audited accounts**
- **Pay and grading structures**

This may be provided as part of the organisational structure and should indicate, for most posts, levels of pay rather than individual salaries.

- **Staff and authority members' allowances and expenses**

Details of the allowances and expenses that can be incurred or claimed. It should include the total of the allowances and expenses incurred by or paid to individual senior staff and board members by reference to categories. These categories should be produced in line with the authority's policies, practices and procedures and will be under headings like travel, subsistence and accommodation.

- **Income from grant and other sources**
- **Procurement procedures**

Details of procedures used for the acquisition of goods and services. Contracts currently available for public tender.

- **Lists of contracts awarded and their value**

We would expect normally that it should be necessary only to publish details of contracts that are of sufficient size to have gone through a formal tendering process.

- **Financial regulations**

What our priorities are and how we are doing

Strategies and plans, performance indicators, audits, inspections and reviews.

We would expect information in this class to be available at least for the current and previous three years.

- **Corporate plan**

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local plan• Site management plans• Action plans• Performance reports• Annual report or review
<p>How we make decisions Decision making processes and records of decisions.</p>
<p>We would expect information in this class to be available at least for the current and previous two years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agendas and minutes of Authority meetings and its sub-committee meetings <p>We would expect minutes and the minutes of the authority and any sub committees excluding material that is properly considered to be private, to be readily available to the public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning studies• Publicly available reports
<p>Our policies and procedures Current written protocols, policies and procedures for delivering our services and responsibilities.</p>
<p>We would expect information in this class to be current information only.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policies and procedures for the conduct of the business of the authority• Policies and procedures for the provision of services• Policies and procedures for the recruitment and employment of staff <p>Codes of practice, memoranda of understanding and similar information should be included. A number of policies, for example equality and diversity, and health and safety, will cover both the provision of services and the employment of staff. If vacancies are advertised as part of recruitment policies, details of current vacancies will be readily available. Policies and procedures for handling requests for information should be included.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conservation strategies• Planning policy• Customer service <p>Standards for providing services to the authority's customers, including the complaint procedure. Complaints procedures will include those covering</p>

requests for information and operating the publication scheme.

- **Internal instructions, manuals and guidelines**

Where access to internal instructions, manuals and guidelines for dealing with the business of the authority would assist public understanding of the way decisions are made these should be readily available. We would not expect information that might damage the operations of the department to be revealed.

- **Records management and personal data policies**

This will include information security policies, records retention, destruction and archive policies, and data protection (including data sharing) policies.

- **Charging regimes and policies**

Details of any statutory charging regimes should be provided. Charging policies should include charges made for information routinely published and clearly state what costs are to be recovered together with the basis on which they are made and how they are calculated.

Lists and registers

We expect this to be information contained only in currently maintained lists and registers.

- **Public registers and registers held as public records.**

Where an authority is obliged to maintain a register and to make the information in it available for inspection by the public, it is accepted that in most circumstances that the existing provisions covering access will suffice. We would expect however that authorities do publicise which public registers they hold and how the information in them is to be made public. Where registers contain personal information, authorities must ensure that this is protected by the data protection principles.

- **Asset registers and information asset register**

We would not expect authorities to publish all details from all asset registers. We would expect some information from capital asset registers to be available. If an authority has prepared an information asset register for the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005, it should publish the contents.

- **FOIA disclosure logs**

Where an authority produces an information disclosure log indicating the

information that has been provided in response to requests it should be readily available. Disclosure logs are themselves recommended as good practice.

- **Register of gifts and hospitality provided to members of the authority and senior personnel**
- **Any register of interests kept in the authority**
- **Other lists required by law**

The services we offer

Information about the services we offer including leaflets, guidance and newsletters.

Generally this is an extension of part of the first class of information. While the first class provides information on the roles and responsibilities of the authority, this class includes details of the services which are currently provided by the authority. The starting point would normally be a list or lists of the services that fall within the responsibility of the authority, linked to details of these services.

- **Byelaws**
- **Services for which the department is entitled to recover a fee or toll together with those fees or tolls**
- **Social, geographical and historical details**
- **Educational services**
- **Access and accessibility**
- **Camp sites, car parks and public toilets**
- **Forestry and tree preservation**
- **Cultural heritage**
- **Visitor, walks and boating information**
- **Advice and guidance**
- **Leaflets, newsletters and booklets**
- **Media releases**