

Level 10
1 Stratford Place
Montfichet Road
London
E20 1EJ



28 August 2018

INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE 18-047

Dear 

Thank you for your information request, received on 30 July 2018. You asked the London Legacy Development Corporation (Legacy Corporation) and the E20 Stadium LLP (E20) to provide the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA):

“For LLDC and E20 Stadium LLP FOI

Could a please request a copy of any emails and/or reports/documents including meeting minutes which make any reference to the London Stadium 'capacity' formally called the Olympic Stadium in Stratford.”

I can confirm that the Legacy Corporation and E20 hold information relevant to your response, however, given the broad nature of the request we are refusing to respond as the cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit as defined by FOIA section 12.

s.12 - Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit.

(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

The Legacy Corporation and E20 have estimated that the resources that would be required to identify, locate, retrieve and extract this information would far exceed the appropriate limit.

The appropriate limit is £450, calculated as 18 hours at the rate of £25 per hour, however, only the time taken to;

- a. establishing if the information is held;
- b. locating the information;
- c. retrieving the information; and
- d. extracting the information;

can be taken into consideration when calculating the estimated costs of answering the request.

Preliminary searches were conducted on the Legacy Corporation and E20 email archives for any emails containing the terms 'stadium' and 'capacity' received or sent up to 30 July 2018.

The Legacy Corporation search results contained 118,280 individual emails and was nearly 24GB in size. The E20 search results contained 11,931 individual emails and was nearly 2.4GB in size.

The email search saves the search results in segments dependent on size, the larger the size of the search result then the more segments there are. The time estimate for the emails is based on the time taken to export, download and extract 1 segment. This is then used to calculate the time taken and extrapolated dependent on the number of segments.

Based on past exercises it would take over 30 hours to export, download and extract the Legacy Corporation and E20 search results. This estimate does not include the time that would be required to search all of the resulting email bundle in order to locate and extract those emails relevant to the request.

There are over 130,000 emails that would need to be reviewed in order to establish if they hold relevant information. Based on an estimate of 1 email reviewed every 30 seconds this exercise would take over 1,085 hours to complete.

The estimates of time above do not include the review of the remaining emails that would then be required in order to identify information that would need to be redacted or any third-party consultation that would be required as these factors are not considered as part of the calculation of the costs when refusing a request under FOIA section 12.

Preliminary searches were also conducted on the E20 fileservers for any records that contained the term 'capacity' within the file or folder name, with additional searches for these terms within the content. The term 'stadium' was not part of the search criteria as E20's full name is included in the filepath and therefore including the term 'stadium' would have meant every item within the E20 fileserver being within the search results.

Please note these searches would only find those records that used the term capacity, or in the case of scanned documents, where the document had been scanned with OCR capability.

The E20 search results with either of this term with the file or folder name or within the content exceeded 11,200 files.

The search results are extracted as a report with a live link to the folder where the document is held as opposed to the document itself so the time taken is calculated on the basis that, on average, it would take someone 30 seconds per record to access the folder, identify the specific document and copy it to a separate folder. Based on this, it is estimated that it would take over 93 hours to retrieve and extract the records within the search results.

Each of these documents would then need to be reviewed in order to establish if they hold information relevant to the request. These documents are usually more complex than the email correspondence and therefore it is estimated that it would take a minimum of 2 minutes per document to establish if it is relevant. This means that this exercise is estimated to take approximately 373 hours.

Given the above, further searches were not undertaken. Based on our estimates it would take over 1,500 hours to extract and retrieve the information requested and establish if it is relevant. Based on a 7.5 hour working day, this would take over 200 days just to complete this aspect of the request.

As stated previously, this figure does not include the time that would be required to review the relevant documents in order to identify and consider the public interest in regard to any redactions or any third-party consultations as these factors are not considered as part of the calculations of the cost when refusing a request under FOIA section 12.

The Legacy Corporation and E20 cannot justify the cost or the use of resources that would be required to answer your request, consequently, the Legacy Corporation and E20 are not obliged under Section 12 of the FOIA to respond to your request and we will not be processing your request further.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain, including any dates or period of time relevant to the information required. We will then be able to ascertain whether we would be able to respond within the appropriate limit. Any reformulated request will be treated as a new information request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to:

Deputy Chief Executive
London Legacy Development Corporation
Level 10
1 Stratford Place
Montfichet Road
London
E20 1EJ

Email: FOI@londonlegacy.co.uk

Please note: complaints and requests for internal review received more than two months after the initial response will not be handled.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may appeal directly to the Information Commissioner at the address given below. You should do this within two months of our final decision. There is no charge for making an appeal.

Further information on the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is available from the Information Commissioner's Office:

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF

Telephone 08456 30 60 60 or 01625 54 57 45

Website www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

FOI / EIR Co-ordinator
London Legacy Development Corporation