



4 February 2019

INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE 19-003

Dear 

Thank you for your information request, received on 17 September 2019. You asked the London Legacy Development Corporation (Legacy Corporation) to provide the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA):

“I wish to obtain the correspondence regarding future planning for the Olympic Stadium, between the months of January to December 2012”

I can confirm that the Legacy Corporation holds information which falls within the scope of your request, 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 has 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 email archive for any emails sent or received between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2012 containing the terms 'stadium' and 'plan*' using a wildcard search. Using a wildcard search means that other terms extrapolated from the search word are included in the search results which ensures that other spelling variations are not overlooked. For example, a wildcard search on the word plan will also find results include the words planned and planning.

The Legacy Corporation search results contained 37,692 emails and was over 8.5GB in size.

In order to extract and download the information, the application used to search the email archive 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 searching, extracting and retrieving the emails from the application to the stage where they can be accessed, is based on the time taken for those operations for one segment and then extrapolated over the number of segments.

The Legacy Corporation estimate, based on past exercises, that it would take over 11 hours to export, download and extract the Legacy Corporation search results. This estimate does not include the time that would be required to search all of the resulting email bundle in order to identify and extract those emails relevant to the request.

There are over 37,000 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 314 hours to complete.

Given the above, further searches were not undertaken. Based on our estimates it would take over 325 hours to extract and retrieve the information requested and establish if it is relevant to your request. Based on a 7.5 hour working day, this would take over 43 days just to complete this aspect of the information gathering required in order to answer your request.

To be clear, the estimates of time above do not include the review of the remaining relevant emails that would then be required in order to identify information that would need to be redacted, consider the public interest in relation to any possible exemptions 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.

The Legacy Corporation cannot justify the cost or the use of resources that would be required to answer your request, consequently, the Legacy Corporation 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 smaller date ranges, or more specific search terms relevant to the information you are interested in. 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 an internal 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