

Level 10
1 Stratford Place
Montfichet Road
London
E20 1EJ

[REDACTED]

21 August 2019

INTERNAL REVIEW - REFERENCE 19-028

Dear [REDACTED].

We refer to your email of 17 July 2019 where you requested an internal review under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) with regard to the response you received from the London Legacy Development Corporation (Legacy Corporation) to your information request, reference as above.

The internal review has been completed and the findings and recommendations of the internal review are as follows:

1. Background

- 1.1. The original request (Ref 19/028) was received on 25 June 2019 and requested that the London Legacy Development Corporation (Legacy Corporation) provide information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) in response to a series of questions as set out here:

“We have reviewed the documents submitted in support of the planning application for MSG Sphere (Reference19/00097) (the Application)”

From the LLDC's online planning register, it appears no equalities statement or equalities impact assessment was submitted in respect of the Application.

1. Please confirm whether any equalities assessment has been carried out in respect of the Application (whether on behalf of the applicant or LLDC): and

2. If any such equalities has been carried out, please provide the information relating to this.”

- 1.2. A response was sent on 11 July 2019 to inform you that the Legacy Corporation did not hold this information.
- 1.3. Your subsequent email request for internal review was received on 17 July 2019 setting out the grounds for appeal as follows:
 - I. *The Response stated that the "Legacy Corporation does not hold information which falls within the scope of your request as to date, no equalities impact assessment has been submitted."*
 - II. *The Request was broadly drafted, and sought information in relation to any equalities assessment which had been carried out in relation to the Application. The Response indicates that the LLDC misunderstood the full nature of the request and artificially limited its consideration to assessments submitted with the Application.*
 - III. *As a result, we request a review of the Response. We remind the Council that the Request relates to "any equalities assessment " which has been carried out. The information relating to those assessments may not take the form of formal reports.*

2. Review findings:

- 2.1. The internal review – in which the panel reassessed the nature and full scope of your request – has now been completed and the findings and recommendations of the review are as follows:
- 2.2. The internal review panel does not agree that LLDC misunderstood the full nature of the request and limited its consideration to assessments submitted with the application. As part of the internal review, the panel asked members of the planning team if they held any information regarding an equalities assessment relating to the MSG Sphere (reference 19/00097) and they confirmed that LLDC does not hold any relevant information, whether formal or informal. There is, however, information relating to equalities already in the public domain as part of the planning application within the Design and Access statement.
- 2.3. The internal review panel has found that the response given to the original FOI request could have given more context and explained that the applicant has been informed by LLDC that they are required to prepare an Equalities Impact Assessment as part of the planning application. When this is complete it will be placed on LLDC's website alongside the other planning documents.

3. Panel Recommendations:

- 3.1. After full consideration, the internal review panel concluded that the original response was appropriate, however the response could have signposted the requestor to the planning application information (Design and Access statement) and could have explained that the applicant has been informed by LLDC that they are required to prepare an Equalities Impact Assessment as part of the planning application. When this is complete it will be placed on LLDC's website alongside the other planning documents.

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

Deputy Chief Executive
London Legacy Development Corporation