



6 April 2023

INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE 23-013

Thank you for your information request, received on 16 March 2023. You asked the London Legacy Development Corporation (Legacy Corporation) to provide the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA):

“Under freedom of information legislation can you supply me information of the security searches on bridges to the London Stadium Island on West Ham match days

On average how many security stewards are deployed on security search duty on West Ham match days?

What is the cost of providing this security service per West Ham match day?

How often do the security checks on West Ham match days find prohibited items and is this recorded or reported?

If recorded how many items have been found by security checks on West Ham match days broken by categories of firearms or weapons, fireworks or explosives, drugs and any other prohibited items.

How many discoveries of prohibited items have led to arrests on West Ham match days?”

I can confirm that the Legacy Corporation holds information which falls within the scope of your request, however, all of the information in relation to the security checks is being withheld under Section 31(1) – prevention or detection of crime.

Section 31 - Law enforcement.

(1) Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice—

(a) the prevention or detection of crime

The section 31 exemption is a qualified exemption and subject to the prejudice test and the public interest test. Under the prejudice test we have to consider if disclosure of this information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention of crime.

Consideration is also given to the harm disclosing this information would be likely to cause, combined with other information already in the public domain (mosaic effect) or possibly

released at a future date (precedent effect). The public interest test considers and balances the public interest in disclosing this information against the public interest in not disclosing this information and uses this assessment to decide whether there is sufficient justification in withholding this information under this exemption.

Information disclosed under the FOIA is considered to be public information, and while there is a presumption towards disclosure, consideration needs to be given as to who will have access to this information beyond the requestor, and the purposes for which they could use the information.

In accordance with the statutory Code of Practice issued by the Information Commissioner's Office, as part of the public interest assessment, the Legacy Corporation contacts third parties referenced in the information, to give them the opportunity to provide examples of any harm from their perspective that there may be from releasing the information. Under FOIA, the Legacy Corporation cannot assume what information might be exempt, and therefore any third party that may be affected by disclosure is asked to provide details of the harm that releasing the information would have on its commercial interests. The Legacy Corporation take the views of affected third parties into consideration when undertaking the public interest assessment. In line with this process London Stadium 185 were contacted for their views.

Prejudice to the prevention of crime

The Legacy Corporation has assessed the impact of releasing the information in relation to the London Stadium security checks, stewarding costs and other related security operations in order to decide whether disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention of crime. We have concluded that prejudice to the prevention of crime would be caused by disclosing this information so the exemption is engaged.

Any information in relation to security of the London Stadium is extremely sensitive and releasing this information would prejudice the prevention of crime and jeopardise the security of this venue. Revealing any of the information requested would contradict hostile reconnaissance guidance issued by the government agency the National Protective Security Authority (formerly CPNI).

Public Interest Test

There is, of course, a public interest in promoting transparency of public authorities' decisions and accountability, however, the disclosure of the information requested, currently withheld under s.31(1)(a) and identified as prejudicial to the prevention of crime would be likely to harm the security of the London Stadium because it will make public sensitive information in relation to the security operations of this venue.

It is the view of the Legacy Corporation that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request and wish to make a request for an internal review of our response, you should write to:

Deputy Chief Executive
London Legacy Development Corporation
Level 9

5 Endeavour Square
Stratford
E20 1JN

Email: FOI@londonlegacy.co.uk

Please note: requests for internal reviews received more than forty working days 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