

EXEMPT

Mayor of the East Midlands,
PO Box 8712,
Council House,
Corporation Street,
Derby,
DE1 9UG

13/10/2024

Freedom of Information Request – Ref: FOI 14

We understand East Midlands Combined Authority are hosting engagement events to inform how they should manage ASF from 1st August 2025.

Are the Authority able to share PowerPoint slides from these events at this stage, or confirm expected procurement timelines for ASF?

The power point slides form part of the SSP and will be published in our Strategic Skills Plan, on our dedicated consultation section of our website. In this instance, we have applied section 22 exemption to the PowerPoint slides, therefore, are not obliged to provide the information at this point because they form part of the information intended for future publication at some later date (whether determined or not).

As this exemption is not an absolute exemption, in line with the terms of this exemption in the Freedom of Information Act. We have considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to provide you with the information ahead of publication, despite the exemption being applicable.

We have considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to provide you with the information ahead of publication, despite the exemption being applicable. Please find below the reasoning for and against disclosure.

We acknowledge that there is a general public interest in disclosing the PowerPoint slides from the engagement events to promote transparency and government accountability. That is why we aim to publish this information in due course.

However, there are public interest arguments against disclosure of this information at the present time. These arguments include that it is in the public interest to adhere to the existing publication process. It is in the public interest to ensure that the publication of official information is a properly planned and managed process. The Combined County Authority must ensure that the information intended for publication meets the standards and requirements set for publications. Which include time for the information (which includes the slides and input) to be analysed and properly verified before being placed in the public domain.

The Authority recognises that private interests are not public interests. Therefore, it is also in the public interest to ensure that the information is available to all members of the public at the same time, and premature publication could undermine the principle of making the information available to everyone at the same time through the official publication process.



Publication before the planned date, in response to individual FOI requests, would undermine the Authority's pre-planned publication procedures and its ability to use staff resources in a way that avoids undermining reasonable publication timetables.

On this occasion, we have concluded that the balance of the public interest test falls in favour of withholding this information. Our decision is therefore to withhold the information until it is ready for publication.

I hope this satisfies your request.

If you are dissatisfied with this decision, you may write to request an internal review. The internal review will be carried out by someone who did not make the original decision, and they will re-assess how the Department handled the original request.

If you wish to request an internal review, please write or send an email to the Information Governance Team within two months of the date of this letter, at the following address:

Information Governance Team
East Midlands Combined County Authority
North Enterprise Gateway
Saltergate
Chesterfield
S40 1UT
e-mail: FOI@eastmidsdevo.org.uk

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you remain dissatisfied after an internal review decision, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office. You can find further details on how to do this via Information Commissioner's Office website: [FOI and EIR complaints | ICO](#).

Regards

Information Governance Team

East Midlands Combined County Authority