

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA100320-4767

15 June 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) received on 28 February 2020. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

You asked for:

The request relates to the Old Oak and Royal Park Development Corporation (OPDC). I am requesting the following:

A copy of all correspondence (written and electronic), as well as official advice (including legal guidance and political briefing), sent between officials or executives working for the OPDC, prior to the formal submission of the OPDC's Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) bid and relating to that bid. The time frame is June 2018 to March 2019.

A copy of all correspondence (written and electronic), as well as official advice (including legal guidance and political briefing), sent between officials or executives working for the OPDC, relating to the summons of the GLA Budget and Performance Committee and following that summons, as set out here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/moderngov/mgAi.aspx?ID=30236>

and here: <https://www.constructionnews.co.uk/government/old-oak-developer-ordered-proOPDC%20planning%20ide-documents-plans-03-10-2019/>.

The time frame is September 2019 to present.

A copy of all correspondence (written and electronic) between employees of OPDC and Cargiant relating to the Old Oak Common Scheme between June 2018 and present

Our response to your request is as follows:

Firstly, please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

Under section 12 of the FOI Act, we are not obliged to comply with a request if we estimate that the cost of determining whether we hold the information, locating and retrieving it and extracting it from other information would exceed the appropriate limit. This is calculated at £25 per hour for every hour spent on the activities described. We have estimated that it would cost

over £450 to provide a response to your current request. This is because it is estimated that it would take over 18 working hours to retrieve and compile the information you have requested.

When we receive requests for email correspondence, there is no mechanism at our disposal to perform an automated search for relevant information, therefore we coordinate requests with the relevant teams to perform keyword searches of their email accounts. The more specific a requester can be as to what they are looking for, the more we can narrow the search and therefore stand a better chance of a more relevant or focused result. A search will then return an amount of 'hits' which potentially contain information relating to the search terms used. Each 'hit' is a single email, although that email will often consist of a chain of emails containing the search term at least once.

To help bring the cost of responding to your request within the £450 limit, you may wish to consider narrowing its scope so that we can more easily locate, retrieve and extract the information you are seeking. For example;

- Provide us with more context in terms of what it is you are looking for (is this linked to a particular issue for example?) Then this will enable us to target our searches accordingly.
- Are you seeking internal (bearing in mind all internal emails are likely to include a high level of administrative content a further widen the scope of your request) or external communications? Please specify any external organisations with whom you are interested in us communicating with and any OPDC officers who you would like us to search the accounts of.
- Provide a narrower time period specific to the duration of which you are particularly interested in seeking communications for.
- Reduce the scope of your request to specific communications between named individuals¹.

We will not be taking further action until we receive your revised request. Further, since your request was received, we have published several HIF documents at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/organisations-we-work/old-oak-and-park-royal-development-corporation-opdc/opdc-structure-1/opdc-spending-money-wisely/being-transparent>

Any clarification received will be treated as a new pursuant to Section 1(3) of the FOIA. If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference at the top of this letter.

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Yours sincerely



Joint Head of Communications and Engagement

¹ <https://www.workingatopdc.com/meet-the-team/>

If you are unhappy with the way the OPDC has handled your request, you may complain using the OPDC's complaints and internal review procedure, available at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/organisations-we-work/old-oak-and-park-royal-development-corporation-opdc/opdc-structure-1/opdcs-governance-board-and-committees/opdc-complaints>