FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – 146/18

Dear Sir/Madam

Your request for information has now been considered and the information requested is provided below.

Request/Response:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information (‘council’ refers to your authority):

1. What assessment has the council made of the potential impact of ash dieback (Chalara) in the authority area and what strategy does it have to cope?

   Answer: Rutland County Council has a tree policy that sets a requirement that all Council owned trees will be assessed and recorded within a five year period.

2. How many mature ash trees are close to roads for which the council is responsible or public areas in the council’s control where those trees have the potential to impact on public safety if they become infected, whether in the council’s ownership or privately owned?

   Answer: The number of mature or senescent ash trees situated on Highways land where people are target is estimated to be over 2,500. We do not have comprehensive records to state how many ash trees are in private land.

3. How many of those trees are on council-owned land, and how many of those are ‘street trees’ in residential areas.

   Answer: The number of mature or older trees situated in Council land is estimated to be over 2,500 and these are situated adjacent to roads. Over 2,000 of them are situated within the rural areas between localities. It is estimated that less than 500 are street trees.

4. How many of those trees are on non-council-owned land?

   Answer: One

5. What is the estimated cost to the council of felling and/or otherwise dealing with all trees in question 2 and over what timescale is that cost estimated?

   Answer: The full extent of the disease is not yet known. Many ash trees, especially mature specimens are displaying good health and some resistance to...
the disease. Therefore there has not yet been the necessity to estimate the cost of tree removal.

6. How much of that cost does the council expect to recover from third parties?
   Answer: Not yet estimated

7. How many trees has the council committed to plant specifically to replace trees lost to Chalara?
   Answer: We aim to replace all trees that are lost to pest, disease, or other disorders. We estimate that this requirement can be met with the number of ash trees.

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If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please contact the Head of Corporate Governance, Rutland County Council, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HP
You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House, Water lane
Wilmslow, Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545700

Yours faithfully

FOI Administrator
Corporate Support Team, Rutland County Council