FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – 187/18

Dear Sir/Madam

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

Request/Response:

Occasionally, individuals residing within a local authority, use their homes for “photographic shoots” i.e. their homes are used by commercial organisations to take photographs of equipment, furniture or modelling within a domestic setting. These are actual residential addresses, not business premises but nevertheless the residential owner occupier allows the use temporarily, on a day-to-day basis or otherwise for the use of these photographic shoots (still photographs) for financial reward of some kind i.e. possibly one off payment

Within your planning department can you please inform me whether:

1. There is guidance for owner occupiers on what is permissible. If so, please provide me with appropriate copy of said guidance. This can either be an internal memo or memorandum, advisory notes, within the planning department or that published in the public domain.

   Answer: No

2. There is guidance for internal planning officers or building control officers on what is permissible. If so please provide me with appropriate copy of said guidance. This can either be an internal memo or memorandum, advisory notes, within the planning department or that published in the public domain.

   Answer: No

Possible contravention of planning laws in relation to photographic shoots

where planning officers may undertake a visit to domestic premises to determine whether or not these are identified activities and do not breach planning law i.e. change of use from residential to commercial use of the said premises, please can you provide me with the following information:

3. How many visits to domestic premises have been undertaken in the last three (3) years since January 2015 by your local authority planning officers or otherwise with regards to investigation of the use of domestic premises for the use of photographic shoots.
4. The number of planning contravention notices (PCNs) issued to domestic premises in relation to the use of premises for photographic shoots in the last three (3) years since January 2015.

Answer: None

5. The number of requests from domestic premises for service delivery plans, and or other information with regards to photographic shoots to inform those dealing with possible planning contraventions in the last three (3) years, since January 2015.

Answer: None

6. Please provide appropriately redacted copies of the above.

Answer: Not Applicable

7. The number of cease and desist notices sent/issued to residential addresses with regards to cessation of photographic shoots on/within domestic premises.

Answer: No such thing as a cease and desist notice in planning.

8. How many complaints has the planning department received in the last three (3 years since January 2015 with regards to domestic premises being used for photographic shoots?

Answer: None

Code of conduct

9. Please confirm whether your planning department has a code of conduct, internal or otherwise dealing with the public, or undertaking visits. This code of conduct could be within the main guidance from the local authority or specific to the planning department. Where possible, please provide said copy.

Answer: No

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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