FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – 1497/18

Dear Sir/Madam

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

Request / Response:

I am keen to know the extent to which food justice and/or tackling food poverty is embedded in what the council does, and whether the Council has made use of section 17 of the Children Act 1989 to grant emergency support to tackle hunger.

I am interested in knowing:

1. Is there a Cabinet Portfolio holder with responsibility for food poverty?

   Answer: There is no specific remit for food poverty. In relation to Children, there is a Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Safeguarding Children and Young People.

2. Is the council part of a Food Partnership or Food Alliance which covers the boundaries of the council?

   Answer: There is no formal Food Partnership within Rutland. There is a variety of activity across the voluntary sector and community groups, and by the Council to promote healthy eating, cooking on a budget, growing food, and supporting local food producers. Rutland also has a food bank.

3. How many times has the Council provided support under the Financial Assistance Section 17 (s17) Children Act 1989 to tackle hunger in the last 12 months?

   Answer: In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this email message acts as a Refusal Notice.

   We can confirm that we hold the information however we are unable to supply it as we consider this information to be exempt due to the low number of individuals identified.

   The Council is relying on Section 40(2) – personal information in that it believes the exemption applies because the information is personal
information and we believe that disclosure would not be fair or lawful because it would breach the first data protection principle as outlined in Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act 1998. We consider that these individuals would have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

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
Business Support Team
Rutland County Council