

Ref. No: 2361
Date: 16/02/26
Subject: Energy Consumption and Costs

REQUEST

Please could you provide the following information relating to your organisation's energy usage:

1. Copies of electricity and gas bills (or a summary equivalent) for the most recent 12-month period available.
2. Total annual electricity consumption (kWh) for the same period.
3. Total annual gas consumption (kWh) for the same period.
4. Total annual cost (?) for electricity and gas, separately if available.
5. The name of your current energy supplier(s).
6. The contract end date(s) for electricity and gas supply.

If providing copies of bills is not possible, a summary of the above information in spreadsheet or PDF format would be sufficient.

RESPONSE

We have been able to reply to part of your request.

	Total annual cost for electricity	Total annual cost for gas	The name of your current energy supplier electric	The name of your current energy supplier gas	The contract end date for electricity	The contract end date for gas
Southport and Ormskirk	£779267 (incl VAT)	£2651915 (inc VAT)	Bryt Energy	Corona	31/03/2027	31/03/2027
Whiston and St Helens	£1942857 (w/o VAT)	£2457087 (w/oVAT)	SmartestEnergy	TotalEnergies	31/03/2028	31/03/2028

Exemption Applied: Section 43(2) – Commercial Interests

Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust is applying Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) to withhold part of the requested information.

Following careful consideration, the requested information is being withheld under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This exemption applies where disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person, including the public authority itself.

The information in question relates to commercially sensitive matters, including **[Gas and electric consumption alongside price and the names of the suppliers with the contract end dates]**, which, if disclosed, could undermine the ability of the public authority to operate effectively in a competitive environment. It may also adversely affect the commercial interests of third parties with whom the authority has contractual or financial relationships.

In applying this exemption, the authority has considered the ICO's guidance on the prejudice test. It has concluded that there is a real and significant risk that disclosure would prejudice commercial interests. This assessment is based on the nature of the information, the context in which it is held, and the competitive landscape in which the authority and its partners operate.

As Section 43 is a qualified exemption, the public interest test has also been applied. The authority recognises the public interest in transparency, accountability, and the scrutiny of public spending. However, in this instance, it is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure. Releasing the information could distort market competition, damage relationships with suppliers, and reduce the authority's ability to secure value for money in future negotiations.