Request 10611 - Information concerning hybrid audit committee meeting on 4 February 2022

This is a request for:

(1) all emails sent to or from any democratic services officer between 9:50 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on 4 February 2022 and

(2) all information held about the use and operation of the council's hybrid meeting system and live-steaming technology during the meeting of the council's audit and corporate governance committee on 4 February 2022.

The information requested under paragraph 2 above specifically includes, but is not limited to, the following categories of information:

a) all software event logs from 4 February 2022, particularly the automated event logs from Dante Controller,

b) all internal communications concerning the failure of the hybrid meeting system and live-streaming technology,

c) all external communications sent to or received from third parties concerning the failure of the hybrid meeting system and live-streaming technology, and

d) all communications between members of the audit committee and officers concerning the failure of the hybrid meeting system and live-streaming technology.

Response

Thank you for your request for information above, which we have dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I hope the following will answer your query:

As regards question 1 – we confirm that we do hold information relevant to your request:

(1) all emails sent to or from any democratic services officer between 9:50 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on 4 February 2022 and

Please find attached information relevant to your request, please note that redactions are applied in line with our obligations under s40(2) – personal data of third parties. Section 40 is an absolute exemption; no public interest test or further explanation is required on its application.

As regards question 2 –

(2) all information held about the use and operation of the council's hybrid meeting system and live-steaming technology during the meeting of the council's audit and corporate governance committee on 4 February 2022.

The information requested under paragraph 2 above specifically includes, but is not limited to, the following categories of information:

a) all software event logs from 4 February 2022, particularly the automated event logs from Dante Controller,

b) all internal communications concerning the failure of the hybrid meeting system and live-streaming technology,

c) all external communications sent to or received from third parties concerning the failure of the hybrid meeting system and live-streaming technology, and

d) all communications between members of the audit committee and officers concerning the failure of the hybrid meeting system and live-streaming technology

As far as we can ascertain this appears to be a repeat request for technical detail of Council systems that you have attempted to obtain previously in earlier requests, our ref: 9650, 9704, 9779, 9782, 9928 and 10130.

We have explained to you in our response to your request reference (9704) that any request for information will be considered to be disclosed into the wider public domain. We have also explained to you that, if held, any material considered to be technical data relating to council systems will be exempt under s31(1) and s43(2), this position remains unchanged:

Disclosure of any material must be considered to be to the wider public domain, and If the organisation were to hold technical details of the software and hardware of a system in use it would not be disclosed.

Firstly, disclosure of such detail would be a security risk to the organisation and s31(1)(a) – the prevention and detection of crime – would apply, it would not be in the public interest to place material into the wider public domain that could be used to interfere with and place the organisation, its functions, and its staff at risk of criminal activity, including theft and cybercrime.

In addition such detailed material relating to a contract would be considered commercially sensitive to both the Council and the provider and be exempt under s43(2) – commercial sensitivity - it would not be in the public interest to prejudice the commercial interests of any party.

The duty to confirm or deny whether information is held does not arise where these exemptions apply.

You have also been advised on several occasions that any further requests for the same or similar information concerning Council systems will be considered vexatious – this is now the case, and we reserve the right to apply s14(1) – vexatious requests on this and any further requests of this nature and will not respond further. Section 14 is an absolute exemption, and no further explanation is required.

In light of this you may wish to review this part of your request and should you wish to do so, you can make a new unrelated request via foi@scambs.gov.uk

We aim to provide a high-quality service to you and hope that you are satisfied with this response. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

*Please note – attachments are available upon request.