

Dear Requester

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - INFORMATION REQUEST

Your request for information has now been considered and the information requested is as follows:

1.
 - a. Since March 23 2020, have you held any virtual meetings of your executive?
 - b. If the answer to a) is Yes, please state on what date the first meeting took place.
 - c. If the answer to a) is Yes, please state how many such meetings took place in total between March 23 and June 23.

Please note that the Coronavirus Act 2020 which enabled virtual meetings did not come into force until 4 April 2020. Notts County Council has a committee system and therefore does not have an executive. The nearest equivalent committee in our system is the Policy Committee. 2 virtual meetings of this committee have been held (using Microsoft Teams and livestreaming to the Council's channel on YouTube) in the designated period on 13 May and 17 June. A further meeting of this committee was held on 15 July. Also, virtual meetings of our other main Committees were held during this period.

2.
 - a. Since March 23, 2020, have you held any virtual meetings of the full council?
 - b. If the answer to a) is Yes, please state on what date the first meeting took place?
 - c. If the answer to a) is Yes, please state how many such meetings took place in total between March 23 and June 23.

The Council has held one virtual meeting of Full Council in this period on 11 June (we have also subsequently held a Full Council meeting on 23 July).

- 3.

Since March 23 2020, has the council made it possible for the public to participate in council meetings virtually? If Yes, please give a brief description.

In line with the new legislation we have livestreamed the meetings and proactively advertised these meetings, including sharing links to the broadcasts with the local media. This enables the public to observe all meetings, other than exempt discussion (by having a committee system decisions are taken in a public forum rather than by individual Councillors as in the executive system of governance and therefore the public are informed in advance of planned decisions and can then observe the decision-making live)

The public has speaking rights at meetings of our Planning and Licensing Committee. This has continued with virtual meetings, with any registered public speakers and applicants invited to join the Teams meetings for the relevant agenda items.

We hope this now answers your request, should you have any further enquiries please do not hesitate to contact me directly using the contact details below.

If you remain unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, you can request a review by contacting foi@nottsc.gov.uk or by post to:

Complaints and Information Team

County Hall
Loughborough Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 7QP

A request for an internal review should be submitted within 40 days of receipt of the response. Please specify why you do not agree with the response and what factors you would like to be considered as part of the review.

Further Information about your rights is available from the Information Commissioner at:
Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: Tel: 0303 123 1113 or 01625 54 57 45

www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely