

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr C. Bury



Dear Mr Bury,

Your letter 06 March 2023

I refer to the above letter sent to Mr Paul Walker of these offices. Mr Walker has asked that I consider the points raised and respond to you on behalf of the Council.

We hold no information in relation to the points raised in the second and third paragraph of your letter. It seems that you believe that the Council needs justification to access information made available on public websites. This is not correct. You also appear to be under the apprehension that the Council is monitoring or surveilling your online presence. This is also not the case.

The Council explained previously in correspondence on the 23 May 2022, that the Council views publically available information on social media sites and news articles (including comments raised by members of the public to such articles). This does not amount to monitoring or surveillance of you nor require authorisation under RIPA or otherwise. This is a pro-active practice that many Council's now perform in the hope that issues that affect the public can be addressed at an early stage and that we achieve better outcomes for our residents.

You have raised now this on three separate occasions both as a subject access request and general correspondence. The Council has provided the relevant information that it has – it is unable to disclose information that it does not have in its possession.

I trust that this letter draws the matter to a conclusion.

Yours sincerely

 **Sean O'Connor**
Head of Legal Service