



BOLTON LE SANDS PARISH COUNCIL

Bolton le Sands Council Freedom of Information Policy

Introduction

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), Bolton le Sands Parish Council (the Council) has a duty to adopt and maintain a Publication Scheme describing:

- The classes of information it publishes
- How and where such information is published (e.g. website, paper copy, etc.)
- Whether or not a charge is made for such information

The Council has adopted the Model Scheme attached at Appendix 1.

The purpose of the Council's Publication Scheme is to let everyone know what information will be automatically or routinely published by the Council and to ensure that a significant amount of information is available to the public, without the need for a specific request to be made.

Other information is of course available from the Council by individual request, under the FOIA and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA).

If there is any information required that does not appear in the Council's Publication Scheme or you have any comments or suggestions on how it can be improved, please contact: Clerk to Bolton le Sands Parish Council. Email: clerk@boltonlesandsparish.gov.uk

Obtaining Information.

Much of the information listed in the Council's Publication Scheme is supplied free of charge and can be downloaded from our website at <https://www.boltonlesandsparish.gov.uk/>

Where information is available only in paper format, this is stated in the Publication Scheme and can be viewed by appointment with the Council's Clerk or a copy can be requested.

Information not contained within the Publication Scheme and Exemptions

The FOIA created a general right of access to information, it also set out information that the Council does not have to make available for specific reasons, called exemptions. This is information that, if published, might prejudice the health, safety or security of the Council, its staff, systems, services or property or breached an individual's Data Protection rights.

If information is requested but is covered by an exemption the Clerk to the Council will tell the applicant in writing why the Council has refused the request and quote the relevant exemptions. If the information requested is not disclosed, the applicant can ask the Information Commissioner to review the Council's decision. The Information Commissioner's Office is the Government department that oversees and enforces FOI. They can be contacted by the following link: www.ico.gov.uk/

Data Protection - Request

You have the right to request access to the information we have on you. You can do this by contacting our Data Information Officer: clerk@boltonlesandsparish.gov.uk The Council will normally respond to Freedom of Information requests within 20 working days.

Charges

The Council's Fees and Charges are stated at the end of the Publications Scheme Unless otherwise stated, publications listed in our Publication Scheme are supplied free of charge. If the estimated cost of complying with a request exceeds the appropriate limit (£450), the Clerk (acting as Data Protection Officer) may refuse the request or invite the applicant to refine it, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. A charge may be made for photocopies.

Management of the Council's Publication Scheme

The Council is responsible for the adoption and maintenance of this Policy and the Publication Scheme.

Review of the Freedom of Information Policy and Publication Scheme

The Council Freedom of Information Policy and Publication Scheme was approved on:

Date..... 2026 and will be amended periodically as necessary.

The Scheme will be reviewed annually.