

Replacement question from Mr Daniel Fulton:

The Council recently refused a request for access to environmental information pertaining to a pending planning application on the grounds that the information had been supplied to the Council by the developer, who the Council considers to be its "customer". The Council stated that the developer, as the Council's "customer", was owed a "duty of confidence" by the Council that outweighed the public interest in the full disclosure of environmental information in the planning process and the statutory presumption in favour of the disclosure of environmental information under the provisions of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Is the Leader of the Council comfortable with the Council's rationale for this refusal, and if not, will the Leader ask officers to look at this decision again, especially in light of the Council's recent pledge in its Business Plan to be "a modern and caring Council" that "make[s] decisions in a transparent, open and inclusive way"?