

## **Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) Decision notice**

**Date:** 12 October 2022

**Public Authority:** Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council  
**Address:** Riverside House  
Main St  
Rotherham  
S60 1AE

### **Decision**

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1. The Commissioner's decision is that Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) does not hold any further information over and above that already provided.

### **Request and response**

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2. On 10 March 2021 the complainant made the following request for information:

"This morning iicsa directed me to RMBC for you to provide this information:

For each of the events quoted below, would you please provide a list of the attendees.

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham 1997 – 2013 Alexis Jay OBE Page8

"Seminars for elected members and senior officers in 2004-05 presented the abuse in the most explicit terms."

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"November 2004 and early 2005

Presentations on the sexual exploitation of children were made to the Council's Children's Executive Group, the Children and Young People's Board and the Safeguarding Board."

"2005

The Task and Finish Group decided to arrange a seminar for all Council members, a Partners Away Day, and major publicity to raise the awareness of the risks of sexual exploitation amongst parents, young people and the community."

"April 2005 A seminar for all Council members was organised on the subject of child sexual exploitation. 30 elected members attended."

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"2006

A conference on the sexual exploitation of children was held in Rotherham in March 2006"

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June 2007

Shaun Wright, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, received a report on the 'Protection of Young People from Sexual Assault in Rotherham'. The report was referred to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel and to the Safeguarding Board. It was decided that a training seminar would be held in July for Council members."

It would be preferred if the minutes and notes of each event were provided."

3. RMBC provided some information requested but denied holding the remainder. Following an internal review RMBC maintained its position.

### **Reasons for decision**

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4. This reasoning covers whether RMBC stated correctly that it does not hold any further information falling within the scope of the complainant's request.
5. RMBC advised the Commissioner that it carried out both electronic and manual searches. All searches were undertaken by service areas relevant to the nature of the information requested.
6. Searches were based on the information being requested (i.e. minutes and meeting references). The meetings do not refer to any particular service user, so searches of this nature i.e. names (even if appropriate to undertake) were not possible.

7. The Commissioner accepts RMBCs explanation and on this basis, his conclusion is that on the balance of probabilities it does not hold any further information within the scope of the request.

## Right of appeal

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8. Either party has the right to appeal against this decision notice to the First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights). Information about the appeals process may be obtained from:

First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights)  
GRC & GRP Tribunals,  
PO Box 9300,  
LEICESTER,  
LE1 8DJ

Tel: 0300 1234504

Fax: 0870 739 5836

Email: [grc@justice.gov.uk](mailto:grc@justice.gov.uk)

Website: [www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber](http://www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber)

9. If you wish to appeal against a decision notice, you can obtain information on how to appeal along with the relevant forms from the Information Tribunal website.
10. Any Notice of Appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 28 (calendar) days of the date on which this decision notice is sent.

## Signed

**Susan Duffy**  
**Senior Case Officer**  
**Information Commissioner's Office**  
**Wycliffe House**  
**Water Lane**  
**Wilmslow**  
**Cheshire**  
**SK9 5AF**