Freedom of Information Request – Response – 28169

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please could you provide the following for the most recent completed financial year for which the information is available:
1. The total amount spent by your Council on the purchase of food and food products.
2. Of this total, how much was paid to businesses or suppliers based in your local authority area/district.
3. If the Council records whether food or food products were produced in your local authority area/district, please also provide the total amount spent on products produced in this local authority area/district.
I am interested in food purchased for all Council services, including schools, adult social care and other directly provided services.

Suffolk County Council (SCC) can confirm that this information is held however, it is being withheld under section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Section 12(1) provides that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information where it estimates that the cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit.

The information you have requested is not held in a single central record. To identify and retrieve the information requested, SCC would be required to contact a large number of individual directorates and service areas across the organisation, including those responsible for schools, adult social care and other operational services. Searches would then need to be undertaken within each area to establish whether relevant information is held and, if so, to locate, retrieve and extract it.

SCC estimates that the work required to identify, locate, retrieve and extract all information falling within the scope of your request would exceed the appropriate limit prescribed by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

In accordance with our duty to provide advice and assistance under section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we invite you to consider refining the scope of your request. For example, if you are interested in expenditure relating to a specific Council facility, service area or location, such as the Council's cafeteria, a particular directorate, or another clearly defined service, we may be able to conduct targeted searches and reconsider your request.

If you wish to submit a refined request, please provide further details identifying the specific service area, facility or part of the Council that you are interested in and we will consider your revised request accordingly.