

Reference Number: FOI-101004487388

Response provided under: Freedom of Information Act 2000



Request and Response:

*I am writing to you to request, under the Freedom of Information act, copies of the following:*

*First, any documents from this year (2019) produced by your local authority outlining planning or preparations for the upcoming exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union.*

*Second, any risk registers or risk assessments that mention Britain's upcoming exit from the European Union made or used by this local authority in 2019.*

**Your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Thank you for your request. I can confirm that Cornwall Council holds some information falling within the description specified in your request.

Regarding the second part of your request, our [‘Catalyst for Change’](#) assessment provides our review of the implications, risks and opportunities of Brexit for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Furthermore, a review of Brexit risks resulted in the addition and updating of risks to the Council’s corporate risk register, which was recently updated. You can find the most recent version of this risk register within the latest [Strategic Risks Report](#), and which details evaluations of Brexit risks across five areas. EU exit has therefore been considered as a factor in resourcing decisions, including through arrangements for suitable resourcing to handle any expected increase in workloads. A document is planned for future publication which will provide further details of Cornwall Council’s Brexit risk management activity, as this evolves in response to national events and preparations. Some existing detail is therefore currently exempt under Section 22 (information held with a view to its future publication), but will be detailed in due course.

Regarding the first part of your request, we estimate that due to the breadth of the expression ‘planning or preparations’, the cost of complying with it would exceed the appropriate limit of £450 (18 hours) to locate, retrieve and collate the information. This is due to the way in which the data is held – which would require searching a large number of files which include relevant terms across numerous Council services. This would therefore involve interrogating an estimated several thousand emails and files across numerous

services and departments which are likely to outline aspects of planning or preparation. This could take between 600-900 hours to complete.

The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for local Government it is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending approximately 2½ working days (18 hours) in determining whether the Council holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

We may be able to assist you with your request if you are willing to narrow the scope of your request, such as by narrowing the time period, specific subject, or specific document type. Please contact me to let me know if you would like the Council to proceed with your request in this way. Then we will of course be happy to reconsider your request and establish if we are able to be answer within the appropriate limit and timeframe.

Do please note, however, that extensive documentation regarding Cornwall Council's preparations for Brexit – in particular our risks, opportunities and implications assessment, 'Catalyst for Change', our post-Brexit plan 'New Frontiers', and assorted research and consultation submissions – is already uploaded to our [Brexit information webpage](#). That webpage is frequently updated, so additional information relating to continuing preparatory activity will continue to be added to it, which will provide updates on our preparations for exit day and for post-Brexit.

You may also wish to consider that the Council has also been undertaking preparations in partnership with local stakeholders and Government, such as through the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Leadership Board (for example, items [LB/60](#), [LB/62](#) and [LB/65](#)), and in line with Government's guidance on what activity should be undertaken. Resilience aspects of preparations are being handled through a multi-agency response via the Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Resilience Forum (LRF) – which is made up of representatives from local public services, including local authorities, the blue-light emergency services, the NHS, the Environment Agency and other partners. You can find out more on the LRF's role via its [website](#).

We greatly encourage you to engage with our website regularly to stay updated, and to make use of the guidance there on the steps you can also take to prepare. If you are an EU national or a close family member of an EU national, we recommend that you consult the information on our webpage and sign up for updates on the EU Settlement Scheme at [Gov.uk](#). Whatever happens, our European residents and their families will continue to be valued members of our community who we hope will continue to call Cornwall their

home. Even in a no deal scenario, Government has said that it will protect the rights and status of European citizens and their family members lawfully resident in the UK by the date of EU exit, to continue to work and live here.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries regarding the information noted above. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Strategy and Engagement

**Information provided by:** Strategy and Engagement, Cornwall Council

**Date of response:** 25/06/19