



**Reference Number:** FOI-101004593176

**Response provided under:** Freedom of Information Act 2000

**Request** and response:

***I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from Cornwall council:***

***The No-deal Brexit risk register; and documents on any contingency planning for Brexit?***

***Are you planning to stockpile goods in preparation for Brexit, and what are you planning to stockpile?***

***How have you spent the extra money allocated by the government for Brexit preparations?***

I can confirm that Cornwall Council holds information falling within the description specified in 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 (the latest update for which will be released during the week commencing 9 September). 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. We have no present plans to stockpile specific goods.

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. As Section 22 is a qualified exemption, a public interest test has been applied.

Regarding your request for ‘any documents on any contingency planning for Brexit’, we estimate that due to the breadth of the descriptor, 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](#).

To date the Council has only partially spent its allotment of Brexit preparatory funding from Government, for the purposes of additional resourcing for export health, trading standards, commercial, and resilience teams, as well as community cohesion engagement activity.

Yours sincerely,

Strategy and Engagement

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

**Date of response:** 12/09/2019

