

**My Ref:** IGO/11-9007  
**Your Ref:**  
**Contact:** Jacqueline Williamson  
**Email:** information.governance@nottinghamcity.gov.uk



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Requester

At contact address specified for request number above

25<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Dear Requester

**Re: Your request for information**

Thank you for your email dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2011. As the information you requested is not personal or environmental it has been processed in accordance with the FOIA.

Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in responding to your request.

Owing to the fact that this authority is applying an exemption to part of the information requested, please accept this email as a refusal notice issued in accordance with section 17 of this Act.

I have investigated your request and the answers to your questions are as follows.

*1. Is Wollaton Park (the park) a public park?*

Wollaton Park is a public park. 'The Park' referred to in your request is more commonly called Wollaton Hall and Deer Park and is seen as a Historic Heritage Park. Whilst not a conventional public park the grounds are opened for public access and is categorised as one of the Cities main destination sites.

*2. Under what legislation, rules or by-laws or other authority does Nottingham City Council give itself the right to close the park to the public?*

In terms of Parks and Open Spaces the department advise that where there is a clear operational or safety need, it is entirely appropriate to close or restrict access to parks for limited periods. In the case of Wollaton Hall there is a track record of closing this park, either in part or whole, for limited periods due to Animal Husbandry needs or for events. Thus the Authority holds the right to close the park for short periods if there is an operational need, Health and Safety requirement or special event.

*3. One of the reasons stated for closure is maintenance. What maintenance is being carried out?*



During the closure there has been some fencing and boundary works carried out.

*4. Is this maintenance considered to be a danger to the public requiring the closure of the park?*

Two reasons have been given for closure, these are that filming is taking place and alongside this maintenance works are being carried out. In regards to filming, there is a large film crew on site with a large number of vehicles and technical equipment. We recognise that the extent of the filming and complexity of co-ordinating these works alongside consideration for the safety and protection of other site users.

*5. Which film company has hired the use of the park for such an extended period?*

A contract for the use of the site for filming has been agreed with Cape Road Productions Limited.

*6. How much has the company paid in total for the hiring of the park?*

The City Council has negotiated a fee for filming to take place at Wollaton Park but the figure cannot be disclosed, as this is commercially sensitive. The information you requested is exempt from disclosure under section 43(2) of this act as we feel releasing the information would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of Cape Road Productions Ltd and Nottingham City Council.

In considering how the release of this information may prejudice section 43(2) we have taken into account any harm that would likely to be caused to this authority. In consideration of this we have reference to the potential for damage of this Authority's opportunities of raising income in this manner; in addition this Authority is likely to place itself at risk of having to defend legal action if this information was to be released.

As we have relied on section 43(2) of this act to exempt information we are also required to carry out a Public Interest Test as defined in section 2 of this act. This is a test of whether the public interest in withholding the information is greater than in releasing it. In this case we feel it is in the best interests of the public that this Authority's ability to use its assets to generate income in this manner is not harmed by release of this information, and that it is in the public interest that by withholding this information Nottingham City Council would have a likely and substantially positive impact on future opportunities to secure further financial benefit of this nature to the City.

Further it is not in the public interest that harm is caused to the potential for organisations of similar type in selecting, and therefore promoting, Nottingham as a place to secure filming opportunities. For these reasons we feel it is appropriate in this case to maintain the section 43(2) and withhold the information.

*7. What do the Nottingham City Council intend to do with the revenue from the hiring of the park?*

All monies obtained will be used in order to help support the Wollaton Hall and Deer Park offer.

If you should have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number quoting your personal case reference which is **11-9007**.

If you are not satisfied with the response provided or any exemptions applied you should write in the first instance to **Stephanie Pearson, Information Governance, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG** stating the reasons for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied after receiving the response to your initial complaint you can request an independent review from the Information Commissioner's Office at **FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF**. You may also contact the Information Commissioner's Office by telephone on 01625 545745 or by email at [mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Williamson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Jacqueline Williamson**  
**Senior Information Governance Officer**  
For and on behalf of the Information Governance Office