

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST – CHECKLIST

Name of Officer:

Request Ref:

Category of exemption applied:

Request:

Public Interest Test Questionnaire

This is not a definitive list. However, it does provide a series of questions that you should ask yourself when recommending withholding information.

<u>FACTORS WHICH SUPPORT DISCLOSING INFORMATION</u>	<u>Reasoning</u>
Will disclosure help people to understand and participate in public debate about current issues?	
Will disclosure help people to understand why the Council has taken certain decisions?	
Will disclosure give the public information about the personal probity (or otherwise) of elected members or council staff?	
Will disclosure encourage greater competition and better value for money for council taxpayers?	
Will disclosure allow individuals and companies to understand decisions made by the Council that have affected their lives?	
Is the information about factors that affect public health and public safety? (NB you should be careful if considering the release of information which might adversely affect public health and safety)	
Will disclosure reveal incompetent, illegal or unethical decision making or examples of malpractice?	
Will disclosure reveal that such maladministration has not in fact occurred?	

<u>FACTORS WHICH SUPPORT WITHHOLDING INFO</u>		<u>Reasoning</u>
Will disclosure damage the Council's interests without giving the public any useful information?		
Will disclosure damage another organisation or person's interests, without giving the public any useful information?		
Will disclosure give an unfair, prejudicial or inaccurate view of a situation?		
Will disclosure prevent the effective delivery of services without giving the public useful information?		
Will disclosure put the health and safety of any group or individuals at risk?		
Is there a clear and coherent reason why the community in general would benefit more from information being withheld?		
Justification of decision (Please provide explicit reasoning)		
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Name and Title		
Date		

Thurrock Council
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