

FOI Reference Number: FOI/301/1920

Date: 13 December 2019

**Request:**

***[Information request - 1]***

*An asset list of all current petrol and battery powered handheld machinery used within your inventory with information about the make and model numbers of units and age per machine. I would like to request that this information is focused on brush cutters, blowers, chainsaws, hedge trimmers, kombi tools, pole pruners, backpack blowers and any other handheld machinery within your assets.*

***[Information request - 1a]***

*If the council has not purchased any new battery powered handheld outdoor machinery when the need to buy more equipment has arisen (since July 2018), what was the reason to continue purchasing petrol powered handheld machinery?*

***[Information request - 2]***

*The total amount of fuel in litres purchased since 24th July 2018 for use in two-stroke outdoor powered equipment as listed in Information Request 1.*

***[Information request - 3]***

*How often are the machines listed in Information Request 1 regularly serviced ?*

***[Information request - 4]***

*How many schools and health trusts facilities are maintained using the equipment listed in Information Request 1 for tasks such as leaf blowing, tree surgery, brush cutting and hedge trimming?*

***[Information request - 5]***

*Do you keep records of usage of machinery for the purpose of hand arm vibration regulations, if so please can you detail the hours of usage associated with each machine as well as how many people are trained to operate these machines for council related work throughout the year?*

***[Information request - 6]***

*Does the local authority monitor the occupational health risks associated with operator's exposure to the inhalation of Particulate Matter (PM2.5) emissions from two-stroke machinery?*

**Response:**

Thank you for your information request which Mid and East Antrim Borough Council received on 14 November 2019.

Please find below and attached, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's response.

**[Information request - 1]**

An asset list of all current petrol and battery powered handheld machinery used within your inventory with information about the make and model numbers of units and age per machine. I would like to request that this information is focused on brush cutters, blowers, chainsaws, hedge trimmers, kombi tools, pole pruners, backpack blowers and any other handheld machinery within your assets.

**Please see attached excel sheet - Two Stroke Power Equipment.**

**[Information request - 1a]**

If the council has not purchased any new battery powered handheld outdoor machinery when the need to buy more equipment has arisen (since July 2018), what was the reason to continue purchasing petrol powered handheld machinery?

**Replaced equipment moving to battery option.**

**[Information request - 2]**

The total amount of fuel in litres purchased since 24th July 2018 for use in two-stroke outdoor powered equipment as listed in Information Request 1.

**Mid and East Antrim Borough Council do not hold this information.**

**[Information request - 3]**

How often are the machines listed in Information Request 1 regularly serviced?  
**Annually or as required.**

**[Information request - 4]**

How many schools and health trusts facilities are maintained using the equipment listed in Information Request 1 for tasks such as leaf blowing, tree surgery, brush cutting and hedge trimming?

**Not applicable to Northern Ireland Councils.**

**[Information request - 5]**

Do you keep records of usage of machinery for the purpose of hand arm vibration regulations, if so please can you detail the hours of usage associated with each machine as well as how many people are trained to operate these machines for council related work throughout the year?

**No.**

**[Information request - 6]**

Does the local authority monitor the occupational health risks associated with operator's exposure to the inhalation of Particulate Matter (PM2.5) emissions from two-stroke machinery?

**No.**

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of part of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Chief Executive at the Braid Ballymena Town Hall, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena, BT43 5EJ.

Please remember to quote the reference number FOI/301/1920 in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of an internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Please be advised that Mid and East Antrim Borough Council may release the response to this information request into the public domain via our website at <https://www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/>.

If we publish our response to your request, your personal data will be removed to protect your privacy.