

Date: 13 April 2018

Ref: FOI10862

Dear Requester

Thank you for your request for information dated 16 March 2018 about Camden Residents' Index. We have dealt with this under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Response

The Council holds the information requested. However, we are withholding some of the information because it is exempt. We have stated what exemption applies. Please see the refusal notice - which explains how and why the exemption applies.

This request concerns the Camden Residents' Index and any related fraud detection systems that utilise the Camden Residents' Index. This is one of two related requests.

These fraud detection systems will relate (at least) to housing, council tax evasion, and school placements. Any additional areas of fraud protection where the Camden Residents' Index is utilised should also be included.

Specifically, we are requesting:

- Any briefing notes, reports or evaluations, reports or summaries to officials or others about the Camden Residents' Index and any related fraud detection systems that utilise the Camden Residents' Index.**
- Any overviews about how the Camden Residents' Index and any related fraud detection systems that utilise the Camden Residents' Index work.**
- Any data visualization outputs connected to the Camden Residents' Index and any related fraud detection systems that utilise the Camden Residents' Index.**
- Any promotional material, presentation material, or educational material related to the Camden Residents' Index and any related fraud detection systems that utilise the Camden Residents' Index.**
- Any reports, briefing notes, summaries about the software being used in connection with the Camden Residents' Index and any related fraud detection systems that utilise the Camden Residents' Index.**
- Any contracts with private companies, contractors, other government agencies and non-governmental agencies that are connected to the development and ongoing use of the Camden Residents' Index and any related fraud detection systems that utilise the Camden Residents' Index. This will include, but may not be limited to, contracts with SCISYS, IBM, and Entity Group. This should also include details of any contractors or providers related to any dashboard systems that are used to interface with the systems in question.**
- Any reports or summaries related to real or potential costs versus savings associated with use of the Camden Residents' Index and any related fraud detection systems that utilise the Camden Residents' Index.**

• The model and/or algorithm/software used to flag individuals and/or households as potential fraudsters as part of the Camden Residents' Index and any related fraud detection systems that utilise the Camden Residents' Index.

We are interested in which factors are taken into account when flagging individuals and/or households as potential fraudsters, how this produced data is handled and processed (e.g. does this go against a permanent record, is this information shared and if so with whom, how does this information affect the individual and/or household, etc.), and how this produced data is utilised (e.g. how are further fraud investigation proceedings carried out, how much influence does the data produced by the model and/or algorithm/software have on the overall process of fraud detection and prosecution, etc.).

• Details of any dashboard system(s) that are used to interface with the Camden Residents' Index and any related fraud detection systems that utilise the Camden Residents' Index. This could include training materials, codes of best practise, screenshots, contracts, access to the software, etc.

• Any reports, summaries, minutes, etc., that relate to how often the Camden Residents' Index and any related fraud detection systems that utilise the Camden Residents' Index flag up individuals and/or households as potential fraudsters but who, it becomes apparent in the future, are innocent.

Some information the Council holds is already publicly available. Please enter this link into your web browser: <https://www.camden.gov.uk/ccm/content/council-and-democracy/about-the-council/about-this-site/disclaimer-and-privacy-statement/?page=2>

However, we are withholding further information because it is exempt:

Exemption

The exemption that applies is:

section 31 (1) (a): prejudicial to law enforcement, which states:

“(1) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under the Act would, or would be likely to prejudice –

(a) the prevention or detection of crime.”

The disclosure of the information is withheld under section 31(1)(a) as to release it would be likely to prejudice the prevention of crime. We believe that releasing the requested information would allow potential fraudsters to use the information to attempt to circumvent the Council's fraud detection systems. This would result in less effective detection of fraud and additional resultant successful fraud.

In deciding whether to apply this exemption, we have considered the public interest. The arguments for releasing this information are:

- To release the information would assist the general public interest in openness
- It may help increase in public debate concerning fraud detection

The arguments for not releasing this information are as follows:

- There is a strong public interest in avoiding likely prejudice to the prevention of crime
- Tackling additional resultant fraud would involve a further strain on public expense
- It is in the public interest to ensure that public resources are used cost-effectively
- It is in the public interest to avoid fraud; and enable the efficient use of public and police resources

It is felt that the public interest in preventing crime from being committed outweighs the public interest releasing the information.

This letter is a refusal notice under the terms of the Act.

Further Information:

Why not check our Portal [Open Data Camden](#) before making a new request as your question may already be answered by a previous [FOI response](#) or in one of our many

useful and interesting datasets.

Your Rights

If you are not happy with how your response was handled you can request an Internal Review within 2 months of this letter by email to foireviews@camden.gov.uk or post: Information and Records Management Team, London Borough of Camden, Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE. Please quote your case reference number. If you are not satisfied with the Internal Review outcome you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office at casework@ico.org.uk telephone 0303 123 1113, or post to Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. The ICO website www.ico.org.uk may be useful.

Yours sincerely

Peter Williams
Information and Records Management Officer
Telephone: 020 7974 7857

