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|  | Resources DepartmentLaw & Governance DivisionInformation Team 7th Floor - Zone CBernard Weatherill House8 Mint WalkCroydon CR0 1EA |
| Ms Eva Blum-Domontet |  |
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| **SENT BY EMAIL** | Contact: Information TeamFOI@croydon.gov.ukOur Ref: F/11756 - 892329 Date: 8 November 2019 |



Dear Ms Blum-Domontet

**Freedom of Information Request**

Your request has been considered under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you. Specifically, you have requested the following information:

1. **Have you been using the London Counter Fraud Hub? If yes, since when? If you have only trialled the Hub, when and for how long did the trial last?**

The trial started August 2017 and ended October 2018.

1. **What is the legal basis for processing personal data (under Articles 6 and 9 of the General Data Protection regulation ("GDPR") and of the Data Protection Act 2018 ("DPA")) through the Software (i.e. the analytics part of the Hub) and the Hub and for what purposes is data processed?**

Article 6 (1) (e) GDPR and S.8 DPA 2018. For the performance of a task carried out in the public interest and in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller.

**3. What type of fraud is the London Counter Fraud Hub used for? Is it only used for identifying single occupancy tax discount fraud or is it used for other fraud detection as well? If yes, what type of fraud is used for?**

Council tax single person discount (SPD), Social Housing and Business Rates.

**4. What are the sources of the data processed by the London Counter Fraud Hub, including the names and information of third-party data sources?**

Council data and third-party data sources e.g. Ordnance Survey, Equifax, CIFAS & Halo

**5. What types and categories of data sources are then processed by the Software (i.e. the analytics part of the Hub)?**

Business rates data

Commercial permits

Commercial waste

Council Tax

Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Electoral register

Housing Benefit

Housing Tenancy

Housing Waiting List

Revenues

Trading Standards data

**6. With regard to the data processed by the Software and/or the Hub:**

**• 6.1. Does the software and/or the Hub process any protected characteristics (under the Equality Act 2010) such as ethnicity, gender, political opinions, age or relationship status?**

Yes

**• 6.2. Does the software and or the Hub process any special category personal data (as defined in Article 9 of GDPR) such as racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious beliefs?**

No

**7. Does the Software and/or the Hub process geographical data (except borough), such as ward or postcode?**

Yes

**8. Is data about children processed by the Software and/or the Hub? If yes, what is the accuracy rate in each small geographical area e.g. postcode or ward?**

No

**9. Who has access to the Hub and the information provided therein?**

The participating authorities

**10. What is the role of each of the companies listed as the Hub's Partners on the website, including BAE systems and Equifax, including any correspondence with these companies?**

They support and/or provide core analytics interfaces/services

**11. With whom is the data generated through the Software shared with, on what basis and what measures are in place, including any data sharing agreements?**

CIPFA and participating authorities as covered under the Main agreement and Data Processing Agreement.

**12. With regard to the automated decision-making process:**

**12.a. Are claimants advised that an automated decision (e.g. an alert) has been taken about them in line with Article 22 of the GDPR and sub-section 14(4) of the DPA?**

Live phase has not been implemented

**12.b. How many requests have you received to (i) reconsider the decision and/or (ii) take new decision not based solely on automated processing?**

Live phase has not been implemented

**12.c. Please provide information as to any "profiling" as (defined in Article 4 (4) of GDPR) by the Software and the Hub and steps taken to comply with GDPR and DPA requirements.**

Live phase has not been implemented

**13. What data was the model tested on? Was the failure rate determined based on real data from the London boroughs in scope? Was the model trained on data from all boroughs? If not, which boroughs did the data come from?**

Historic Council data was used during the Pilot Phase. Model trained on data provided by the 4 Pilot authorities Camden, Croydon, Ealing and Islington.

**14. Has the Software and/or Hub been evaluated to determine if the rate of false positives and false negatives is consistent across different groups of people based on their characteristics as protected by law (for example, age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and/or sexual orientation)?**

No

**15. Was there a Data Protection Impact Assessment done in relation to the Software and the Hub? If so, please provide us with a copy and any related information.**

Yes

**16. Was there an Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment done in relation to the Software and the Hub? If so, please provide us with a copy and any related information.**

Following completion of an initial equalities impact assessment no adverse impact was identified. However, the equalities impact would continue to be reviewed if the project moved in to the live phase.

**17. Could you please share with us documents pertaining to the London Counter Fraud Hub (including but not limited to procurement documents, contracts, instruction and training manuals, promotional documents and resources from the Chartered Institute of Public finance & Accountancy)?**

The Council considers that to disclose the information you have requested, at this stage, would prejudice the commercial interests of the parties concerned and this information is therefore exempt from disclosure under section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act.

This exemption applies to information which if disclosed would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person, including the Council.

In deciding whether to apply this exemption the Council is expected to balance the public interest test in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosing the information. The information is considered, by the Council, to be commercially sensitive as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of the of Council, as it is considered that if the information is disclosed to you it could potentially weaken the Council ability to obtain value for money in respect of any future purchases of this type.

If you are dissatisfied with the way the Council has handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act you may ask for an internal review. This should be submitted to us within 40 working days of this response. You can do this by outlining the details of your complaint by:

Email: FOI@croydon.gov.uk

Writing: Information Team

London Borough of Croydon

Bernard Weatherill House

7th Floor - Zone C

 8 Mint Walk

Croydon CR0 1EA

Any requests received after the 40 working day time limit will be considered only at the discretion of the council.

If you are not content with the outcome of the 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

Yours sincerely

Lynda Fay

FOI Coordinator

Croydon Council