

PQ02 Suzanne Audrey: SIRO Assurance Report

My understanding is that comments on social media, in relation to the Mayor and Council, are being collected and analysed through a contract with Impact Social Ltd. The purpose of the information is described as helping the council to “listen to the city, inform policy decisions and understand citizen needs”. I had assumed, because this is being paid for by public funds, that outputs would be available to the public and local councillors. Reports for 2018 have been published on the Council website. However, the reports for the whole of 2019, and for 2020 to date, are not being made available.

A response to a FOI request

[https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/social_impact_analysis_output?nocache=incoming-1628455] stated:

"Section 22 states that information is exempt from disclosure if it is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not) and in all the circumstances it is reasonable to withhold the information until its planned publication. As provided in our original response, there is a settled intention to publish the analysis on the Council's website. As you have noted in your email dated 18 August, the Council has since moved the reports from its [opendata.gov.uk](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/opendata) site and the 2018 reports are now published here: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/dataprotection-foi/council-and-mayor-social-media-analysis>. In order to engage the exemption, the Council is not required to have a determined publication date; we only have to demonstrate that there was a settled intention to publish the requested information at the time of the request."

Question

Why are the reports from Impact Social Ltd not being made available to the public and members of council in a timely manner?

Answer:

The staggered release of reports has been upheld in 2 internal reviews by the FOI team (see FOI 9314401 and FOI 5688904). Reports will be released to the public at regular intervals. Last year's reports will be reviewed and redacted by the end of the year.