

FOI REF:	17659
RESPONSE SENT:	20.08.2026

Request.

Please identify the basis for treating every publicly accessible building and asset owned, occupied, managed or controlled by Winchester City Council as a Hampshire County Council responsibility.

Please reopen and process the original request, searching the relevant City Council services and records including estates/property, parks/open spaces, civic buildings, council offices, leisure facilities, car parks, public realm, events, procurement, finance and contractor-held information. For each year, please provide the information held or confirm zero/not held after those searches.

If the Council maintains that it holds nothing within the full scope, please identify the services and record systems searched and explain why those searches were likely to retrieve any relevant information.

Please provide the recorded information below concerning flags removed by, for, or on the instructions of the council.

For the avoidance of doubt, this request is not limited to highways, highway assets or lampposts. In this request, “public spaces and assets” means any publicly accessible land, building, structure, asset or street/public-realm furniture owned, occupied, managed, maintained or controlled by the council, or from which the council commissioned, instructed or paid for the removal of a flag. This includes, without limitation, parks, gardens, open spaces, town centres, civic buildings, council offices, libraries, leisure facilities, car parks, beaches or seafronts, flagpoles, lampposts, railings and other street furniture.

For each of the following financial years:

- 2022/23
- 2023/24
- 2024/25
- 2025/26

Please provide:

1. The number of flags removed by, for, or on the instructions of the council.
2. The council's recorded expenditure on removing them, including payments to contractors and any separately recorded internal costs.



3. If recorded, a breakdown by the type of flag removed – for example, the Union Flag, Saltire, St George's Cross or another flag type.
4. Whether the removal work was undertaken by council employees, a council-owned company or an external contractor.
5. The name of any external contractor, supplier or council-owned company used.
6. The council department or team responsible where the work was completed internally. I am not requesting the names of individual employees.
7. Any associated contract, purchase-order or invoice reference, if recorded.
8. The amount paid to each contractor or supplier for this work.

Please search the records of all relevant council services, including parks/open spaces, estates/property, public realm, facilities, events, environmental services, procurement and finance, as applicable. Please also consider relevant information held by a contractor or other person on the council's behalf.

If another public authority is responsible for highways or highway lampposts, please do not treat that as disposing of the whole request.

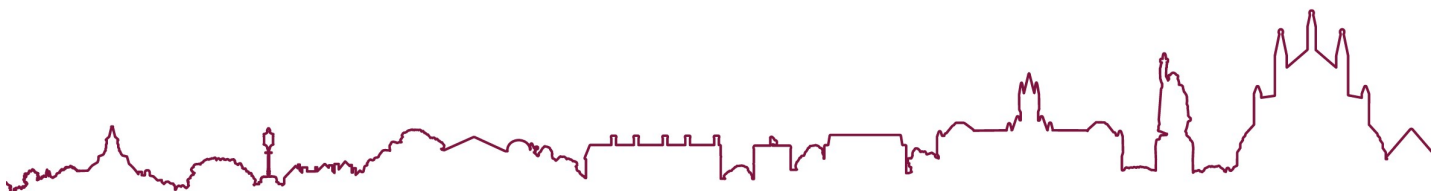
Please answer for every other council-controlled space, asset, function and record falling within the scope above. If you consider a specific part to be held by another authority, please identify that authority and the precise part or asset concerned, while responding to the remainder of this request.

Where event-level information is unavailable, please provide an annual breakdown. If contractor costs formed part of a wider contract and cannot be separately identified, please provide the contractor's name, the relevant contract and the total recorded contract value, while stating that flag-removal costs are not separately recorded.

If no flags were removed during a year, please record the figure as zero.

If information is not held or removal costs are not recorded separately, please state that clearly. If the council holds only part of the requested information, please provide that part and identify what is not held.

I am requesting recorded information only; I am not asking the council to create new information. Please provide the information in CSV or XLSX format where possible.



Response

This request has searched relevant Winchester City Council services and records and has been compiled by teams including Estates and Property services, in respect of council-owned or council-controlled land, buildings and assets.

The information held by Winchester City Council is as follows.

2022/23

Question	Response
1. Number of flags removed	No recorded information held.
2. Recorded expenditure	No recorded information held.
3. Breakdown by flag type	No recorded information held.
4. Removal undertaken by council employees, council-owned company or contractor	No recorded information held.
5. Name of contractor, supplier or council-owned company	Not applicable.
6. Council department responsible	Not applicable.
7. Contract, purchase order or invoice reference	Not applicable.
8. Amount paid to each contractor or supplier	Not applicable.

2023/24

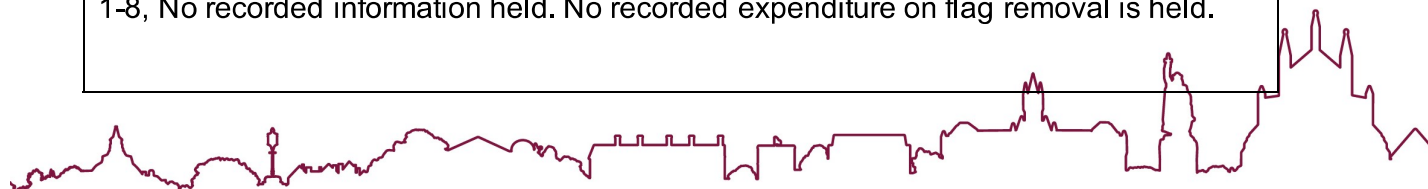
Question, Response

1-8, No recorded information held. No recorded expenditure on flag removal is held.

2024/25

Question, Response

1-8, No recorded information held. No recorded expenditure on flag removal is held.



2025/26 (to date)

Question, Response

1-8, No recorded information held. No recorded expenditure on flag removal is held.

Additional Information

Winchester City Council manages the flying of flags at the Guildhall. Flags may be changes from time to time in accordance with council arrangements and at the direction of the Council's leadership or relevant democratic service functions. However, WCC does not hold records identifying these routine flag changes as "flag removals" for the purposes described in your request and does not record associated removal costs separately.

Teams across the council have been consulted and confirm that no flags have been removed from commercial premises managed by WCC during the period covered in the request.

The Council does not hold recorded information showing any expenditure, contracts, purchase orders or invoices relating specifically to the removal of flags from council-controlled land, buildings or assets during the period requested.

