



Mark Ashdown

**Reply to**  
foi@bristol.gov.uk  
Our ref 26674627  
Date 28 July 2022

Dear Mark Ashdown

**Information requested by:** Mark Ashdown

**Our ref 26674627 – internal review response**

I am writing in response to your concerns about Bristol City Council's handling of your request for information received on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and which was responded to on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

I was appointed to carry out an independent review as I was not involved in the original decision.

In your request you asked for the following information:

**“Please provide documentary evidence of the deregistration of the Brislington Meadows SNCI together with copies of all communications between Homes England and the Council's officers, including Dr Nick Michael and the Council's agents or contractors, about the deregistration of the Brislington Meadows SNCI.”**

**Original decision**

Bristol City Council responded to your request and provided you with a document which it stated answered your request in full.

**Internal review request**

On 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022 you contacted Bristol City Council to request an internal review as you were not satisfied with the original response to the above

request. Specifically, you stated that the supplied information did not address your request.

I have treated your request for an internal review in line with the terms of the EIR.

### **Internal review**

Thank you for your patience whilst I have carried out this review.

In carrying out this review, I have understood your request to have two components. You requested:

1. Documentary evidence of the deregistration of the Brislington Meadows SNCI
2. Copies of communications between Homes England and the Council's officers, including Dr Nick Michael and the Council's agents or contractors regarding the deregistration of the Brislington Meadows SNCI

I will address both parts in turn.

#### **1. Documentary Evidence**

The area of land which is the subject of your request has been subject of a local plan development allocation from the time the local plan was adopted in July 2014. The statement contained within the Homes England report you reference in your original request states that the site was deregistered as an SNCI in order for the development allocation to be made, however following consultation with the planning department I have concluded that this is not correct. Any status as an SNCI was not rescinded at the time of the development allocation or subsequently – the two statuses can co-exist. As such, Bristol City Council does not hold any information regarding the 'deregistration of Brislington Meadows' as no such deregistration has taken place. Please note, details about how these two statuses interact or which has primacy in making planning decisions is outside of the scope of this review.

I note and accept that Bristol City Council's original response provided you with information which was irrelevant to your request. This was misleading and Bristol City Council was incorrect to do so.

#### **2. Communications**

I have run a search for any correspondence either to or from any Bristol City Council email account and any Homes England email account which contains the terms:

- Brislington Meadows; and
- SNCI or “Site of Nature Conservation Interest” or conservation; and
- Deregister or deregistered or deregistration

No results were found. A manual search was also carried out of Dr Michael’s email account for any information relevant to your request from August 2020, but this also produced no results. I cannot comment on the basis for the statement within the Homes England report; however, I am satisfied that Bristol City Council has undertaken reasonable searches for the requested information, and no such information is held.

Bristol City Council’s original response made no mention of this part of your request, and no searches were carried out in order to establish if any relevant information was held. This was incorrect and I apologise that your request was not addressed in full at the time of the original response.

## **Decision**

The final decision of this review is that it partially upholds your complaint. The original response did not adequately address your request, however upon review I have found no information held by Bristol City Council which is relevant to your request.

If you are not content with the outcome of this Internal Review you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner’s Office for a further decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner’s Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

[www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

Yours faithfully

B Hodge  
Disclosures Manager