

How we use your personal information

Introduction

Lincolnshire County Council is registered as a data controller under the Data Protection Act as we collect and process personal information about you. We process and hold your information in order to provide public services. This notice will explain how we use and share your information. Information may be collected in many different ways such as on paper, by telephone, electronically, by CCTV or by a member of staff in person.

Why do we collect information about you?

Lincolnshire County Council holds a wide variety of personal information which can be used in order to:

- deliver public services
- confirm your identity to provide some services
- contact you by post, email or telephone
- understand your needs to provide the services that you request
- understand what we can do for you and inform you of other relevant services and benefits
- obtain your opinion about our services
- update your customer record
- help us to build up a picture of how we are performing at delivering services to you and what services the people of Lincolnshire need
- prevent and detect fraud and corruption in the use of public funds
- allow us to undertake statutory functions efficiently and effectively

How we use your information

We will use the information you provide in a manner that conforms to the Data Protection Act. We will endeavor to keep your information accurate and up to date and not keep it for longer than is necessary. In some instances the law sets the length of time information has to be kept.

We will process your information for the following purposes:-

- For the service you requested, and to monitor and improve the council's performance in responding to your request.

- To allow us to be able to communicate and provide services and benefits appropriate to your needs.
- To ensure that we meet our legal obligations.
- Where necessary for the law enforcement functions.
- To prevent and detect fraud or crime.
- Where necessary to protect individuals from harm or injury.
- To allow the statistical analysis of data so we can plan the provision of services.

We will not pass any personal data on to third parties, other than those who either process information on our behalf, or because of a legal requirement, and will only do so, where possible, after we have ensured that sufficient steps have been taken to protect the personal data by the recipient.

We will not disclose any information that you provide 'in confidence' to us, to anyone else without your permission, except in the few situations where disclosure is required by law, or where we have good reason to believe that failing to share the information would put someone else at risk.

Information sharing

We may need to pass your information to other people and organisations that provide a service on our behalf. These providers are obliged to keep your details securely, and use them only to fulfil your request. If we wish to pass your sensitive or confidential information onto a third party, we will only do so once we have obtained your consent, unless we are legally required to do so. We may disclose information to other partners where it is necessary, either to comply with a legal obligation, or where permitted under the Data Protection Act, e.g. where the disclosure is necessary for the purposes of the prevention and/or detection of crime.

Where we need to disclose sensitive or confidential information such as medical details to other partners, we will do so only with your prior explicit consent or where we are legally required to. We may disclose information when necessary to prevent risk of harm to an individual.

At no time will your information be passed to organisations external to the Lincolnshire County Council for marketing or sales purposes or for any commercial use without your prior express consent.

Improving customer records

We are working to make our record keeping more efficient to be able to provide relevant services more quickly across Lincolnshire. Your customer record may comprise of your name, address, date of birth, gender, contact details (telephone/email), information which can be used to confirm your identity, a brief summary of your contact with the council, an indicator of the services used, and a customer reference number.

Detect and prevent fraud or crime

Lincolnshire County Council is required by law to protect the public funds it administers. We may use any of the information you provide to us for the prevention and detection of fraud. We may also share this information with other bodies that are responsible for auditing or administering public funds including the Audit Commission, the Department for Work and Pensions, and other local authorities, HM Revenue and Customs, and the Police.

In addition to undertaking our own data matching to identify errors and potential frauds we are required to take part in national data matching exercises undertaken by the Audit Commission. The use of data by the Audit Commission in a data matching exercise is carried out under its powers in Part 2A of the Audit Commission Act 1998. It does not require the consent of the individuals concerned.

Telephone calls

Ordinarily we will inform you if we record or monitor any telephone calls you make to us. This will be used, to increase your security, for our record keeping of the transaction and for our staff training purposes.

Emails

If you email us we may keep a record of your contact and your email address and the email for our record keeping of the transaction. We would also suggest that you keep the amount of confidential information you send to us via email to a minimum and use our secure online services or by post.

Using our website

If you are a user with general public access, the <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk> Website does not store or capture personal information, but merely logs a number called your IP address which is automatically recognised by the system.

The system will record personal information if you:

- subscribe to or apply for services that require personal information
- report a fault and give your contact details for us to respond
- contact us and leave your details for us to respond

We employ cookie technology to help log visitors to our web site. A cookie is a small plain text file and is temporarily located in the browser directory on your computer. Cookies are not viruses. You can reject the use of cookies, or delete existing cookies but this may affect how the site functions and prevent the use of some websites. By rejecting / deleting cookies the next time you visit the website will treat you as a new user and you may be asked to provide information that you have previously submitted.

Further information about cookies used on the Lincolnshire County Council website can be found here - <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/cookies>

CCTV

We have installed CCTV systems in some of our premises used by members of the public, for the purposes of public and staff safety and crime prevention and detection. They are also installed in our recycling sites for the purposes of public and staff safety, crime prevention and detection, and the abuse of council policies. In all locations, signs are displayed notifying you that CCTV is in operation and providing details of who to contact for further information about the scheme.

We will only disclose CCTV images to others who intend to use the images for the purposes stated above. CCTV images will not be released to the media for entertainment purposes or placed on the internet.

Images captured by CCTV will not be kept for longer than necessary. However, on occasions there may be a need to keep images for longer, for example where a crime is being investigated.

How we protect your information

Our aim is not to be intrusive, and we won't ask irrelevant or unnecessary questions. The information you provide will be subject to rigorous measures and procedures to make sure it can't be seen, accessed or disclosed to anyone who shouldn't see it.

We have an Information Governance Framework that includes a Data Protection Policy and a set of Information Security policies. These define our commitments and responsibilities to your privacy and cover a range of information and technology security areas. We provide training to staff that handle personal information and may treat it as a disciplinary matter if they misuse or do not look after your personal information properly.

We will not keep your information longer than it is needed or where the law states how long this should be kept. We will dispose of paper records or delete any electronic personal information in a secure way.

Your rights

You may have the right to request that Lincolnshire County Council stop processing your personal data in relation to any council service. However, this may cause delays or prevent us delivering a service to you. Any such requests must be made in writing. Where possible we will seek to comply with your request but we may be required to hold or process information to comply with a legal requirement.

You are legally entitled to request access to any information about you that we hold, and a copy. We try to ensure that any information we hold about you is correct. There may be situations where you find the information we hold is no longer accurate and you have the right to have this corrected.

Further information

If you would like to know more about how we use your personal information please contact:

Information Governance
Lincolnshire County Council
Newland
LINCOLN
LN1 1YL
Telephone: 01522 554011

Email: Information_Governance@Lincolnshire.gov.uk

Or visit our website: <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk>

If you require general information about the Data Protection Act, information is available on the Information Commissioner's web site: www.ico.gov.uk