

FOI – 202/2018

REQUEST

Could you please advise me if computer records held by District Councillors, in connection with their work as councillors, requires them to be individually registered with the Information Commissioner, or is there a blanket coverage for all councillors via TDC registration?

RESPONSE

Further to your enquiry regarding the requirement for councillors to register with the ICO is explained in ICO guidance (see link below) which provides examples of the different roles a councillor is likely to undertake, namely :

1. As a member of the council, for example, as a cabinet member or a member of a committee.
2. A representative of residents of their ward, for example, in dealing with complaints.
3. They may represent a political party, particularly at election time.

In relation to role 1 above, a councillor's processing of personal information would be covered by Tendring District Council's main registration. However, when acting in the role described in 2 above, it is likely that councillors will need to register individually. The 3rd role will depend on whether or not they represent a political party or not. Where there is representation, then it is likely that the political party's registration will be sufficient. However where a councillor is an independent it is expected that individual registration will be necessary. (see page 5 of the guidance for examples of all 3 roles).

<https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1432067/advice-for-elected-and-prospective-councillors.pdf>