

Warden Parish Council

Policy on vexatious communications

This Policy covers vexatious demands and/or repeated requests for information including Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998 requests. The repeated and/or obsessive pursuit of unreasonable complaints and/or unrealistic outcomes, and/or reasonable complaints in an unreasonable manner.

Under this policy the Council will consider repeated requests for information or variations of the same request, on a single issue, to be vexatious and unacceptable where the Council has already answered the request. Where excessive use of the Council's time is being made in dealing with such requests, no response will be made except to inform the member of the public making such request that the requirement is unreasonable.

Taking into consideration the context and history of a request, a decision as to whether it is vexatious will be made on one or more of the following criteria:

- Can the request be fairly seen as obsessive or manifestly unreasonable?
- Is the request harassing the Council?
- Would complying with the request impose a significant burden?
- Is the request designed to cause disruption or annoyance?
- Does the request lack serious purpose or value?

Where the communication of the member of the public is considered vexatious, he/she will be informed and given the grounds for such a decision. If the conduct or correspondence of a member of the public or of a group of persons acting together is considered vexatious, the Council may refuse to respond to communications from that person or group of persons for a specified period of time or limit the amount of correspondence from him or them that will be dealt with.

Accepted 20/01/2020.

This policy is to be reviewed annually.

V Leadbitter

Clerk to Wark Parish Council