

	Our Ref: IRCM-00001052 Contact: E-mail: foi@north-herts.gov.uk 21st September 2026
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Dear

This is an acknowledgement of your request for information received on 21st September 2026 quoted below:

I am writing to request information concerning the telecommunications mast situated on land adjacent to 53 Hawthorn Close, Hitchin, relating to Council reference [26/00508/EC](#).

Given the recent replacement of the previous mast with an 18m telecommunications mast, I would be grateful if the Council could provide the following information:

1. Ownership of the land

Please confirm whether North Hertfordshire Council owns the land upon which the telecommunications mast and/or its associated cabinets and equipment are situated.

If North Hertfordshire Council does not own the land, please confirm, if held by the Council, which individual, organisation or public authority owns it.

2. Financial payments to the Council

If North Hertfordshire Council owns the land, please confirm whether the Council receives any:

- rent;*
- licence fee;*
- wayleave payment;*
- Electronic Communications Code consideration;*
- compensation; or*
- any other payment or financial benefit*

arising from the telecommunications equipment at this location.

3. Payments received during the previous five years

Please provide the amount received by the Council in relation to telecommunications apparatus at this site for each of the previous five financial years, preferably broken down by year and type of payment.

If payments have been made to another Council-owned body or received indirectly on behalf of the Council, please include those amounts where this information is held.

4. Payments over the next five years

Please provide details of any contracted, agreed or projected payments for the next five financial years relating to the telecommunications equipment at this site, including the annual amount where this is recorded.

If payments are subject to review, indexation or another mechanism rather than being fixed, please provide details of that arrangement.

5. Effect of the new 18m mast

Please confirm whether replacement of the previous telecommunications installation with the new 18m mast has resulted, or will result, in:

- *an increase in rent or other payments;*
- *a new payment or premium;*
- *a revised lease or licence;*
- *additional consideration or compensation; or*
- *any other financial benefit to the Council.*

If so, please provide the amount concerned.

6. Who makes the payments

Please identify the company or organisation responsible for making payments in respect of this site and, where different, the telecommunications operator(s) benefiting from the agreement.

7. Agreement governing the site

Please provide:

- *the commencement date of the current lease, licence, wayleave, Electronic Communications Code agreement or other arrangement;*
- *its duration and any renewal provisions; and*
- *a copy of the relevant agreement.*

I appreciate that the Council may consider it necessary to redact genuinely confidential information from the agreement. If any information is withheld, please identify the relevant exemption relied upon.

8. Total financial benefit

Finally, if this information can be determined from the Council's records, please confirm the total amount received during the previous five financial years and the total amount contracted or expected to be received over the next five financial years in relation to telecommunications equipment at this particular site.

Given the considerable local interest surrounding this development, I would be grateful if the Council could provide the actual figures held rather than simply confirming that a commercial arrangement exists.

This FOI request relates solely to the land ownership and financial arrangements associated with the telecommunications site and is separate from the outstanding planning and enforcement matters concerning the mast.

Your request has been logged and allocated the reference number IRCM00001052, please include this reference number on all correspondence related to this request.

You will receive a response within 20 working days from the day after we received your request, as defined by the Act subject to exemptions, exceptions, or the need to consult third parties.

Further details on how the Council processes information requests are available on our website: [Freedom of Information requests | North Herts Council](#).

Please find attached the FOI/EIR obligations under the legislation.

Our [Personal Information and Privacy Notice \(UKGDPR\) | North Herts Council](#) explains how we handle your personal data and your rights.

If you have any queries about the process or your request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Information Officer