

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 02 September 2016 11:36  
**To:** FOI  
**Subject:** FW: [Redacted] inquiry - Japanese knotweed (FOI08887)

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**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 12 July 2016 13:17  
**To:** Brown, Gary (City Services); Wakelam, Matthew  
**Subject:** FW: [Redacted] inquiry - Japanese knotweed

Hi –

Do either of you know anything about the clearance of Japanese Knotweed last week near Leckwith roundabout?  
Would it be Highways Agency?

Thanks,

[Redacted]

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**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 12 July 2016 12:56  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: [Redacted] inquiry - Japanese knotweed

Hi [Redacted]

Here's the email query I sent in previously about Japanese knotweed claims. If you could get an answer in a couple of days, that would be great.

The other query I made, last week, was about the clearance of knotweed stands on the slip road from the Leckwith roundabout on to the A4232. The stands on the right-hand side of the slip road after the bridge have been cut to ground level and removed from the site.

As Japanese knotweed is a controlled waste, whatever is cut down must be cut, bagged and removed by a licensed operator and disposed of at a site licensed to take such controlled waste.

My query was whether this work was undertaken by the local authority and whether the work was undertaken according to the regulations surrounding Japanese knotweed. I appreciate this may have been a Highways Agency issue rather than a council one, however.

Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

---

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 23 June 2016 16:40  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** [Redacted] inquiry - Japanese knotweed

Hello,

I am looking at the cost of Japanese knotweed claims on public body land owners.

Could you please let me know what provisions the local authority has made for claims in relation to Japanese knotweed?

For example, has the risk been insured and what is the limit of the cover under the insurance?

Can you also say how many claims the local authority has had in the last financial year and what the average or typical value has been of any damages the council has paid out.

Also what is the average or typical amount of costs involved in such cases for both the council's lawyers and the claimant's lawyers?

If you could pass on these figures by next Wednesday (29 June) that would be great.

Many thanks

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 02 September 2016 11:37  
**To:** FOI  
**Subject:** FW: [Redacted] inquiry - Japanese knotweed (FOI08887)

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**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 12 July 2016 13:19  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: [Redacted] inquiry - Japanese knotweed

Hi [Redacted]

This enquiry has come in from [Redacted] - any suggestion on who would be the best contact to answer these questions?

Thanks,

[Redacted]

---

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 23 June 2016 16:40  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** [Redacted] inquiry - Japanese knotweed

Hello,

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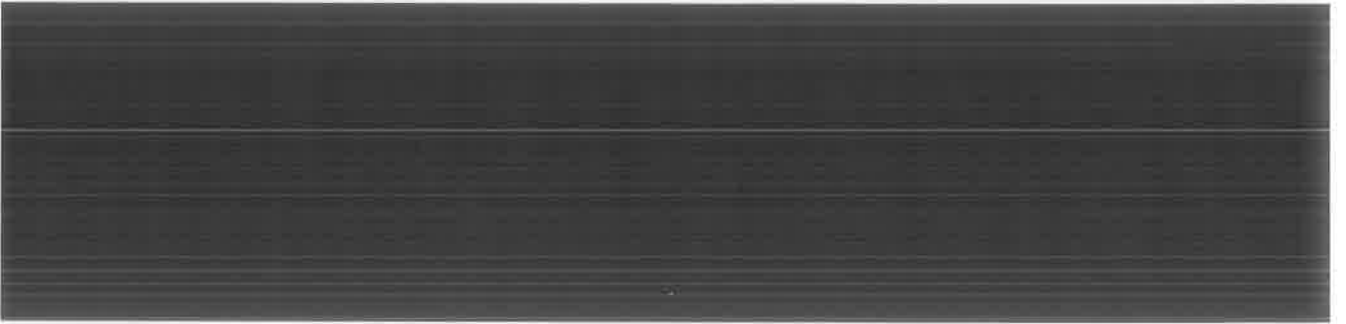
If you could pass on these figures by next Wednesday (29 June) that would be great.

Many thanks

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 September 2016 11:45  
**To:** FOI  
**Subject:** FW: [REDACTED] inquiry - Japanese knotweed (FOI08887)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 August 2016 09:24  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: [REDACTED] inquiry - Japanese knotweed

Hi [REDACTED] - I'll see if we have anything further to add and get back to you.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 11 August 2016 16:54  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] inquiry - Japanese knotweed

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email of 02.02.16 saying Cardiff council has nothing to add to the statement [REDACTED] sent a few days earlier regarding my inquiry about the clearance of a stand of Japanese knotweed on the Leckwith slip road of the A4232 some time after 15 June this year.

As you know, and bearing in mind that Japanese knotweed is a controlled waste under two pieces of legislation (the **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981** and the **Environmental Protection Act 1990**) I have asked questions about the clearance of the stand in question.

I am not persuaded my questions have been fully answered by the statement(s) (in fact just one statement that is re-stated in response to further questioning).

Specifically, the statement(s) says "deposits" were left to "mulch down to avoid cuttings being transported off site". As I have said, I and a witness saw the site cleared of all vegetation. There were no cuttings to be seen.

Further, during a visit to the site on 1 August, I did then find one bare, brown knotweed cane which would correspond with it having been cut down and left some weeks earlier. It was the only dead cane amid the fresh growth of knotweed. As I have said, I have photographs of the re-growth which will show that there are no canes on the ground that would correspond with a whole stand being felled.

So, if the fresh, green Japanese knotweed canes that were cut down were not taken away, then there is a mystery as why only one cane can be found there now. And it is a mystery that is not answered in the statement(s) you and [REDACTED] provided.

Any Japanese knotweed removed from a location must be accounted for. And any that is left on a site must not be left in such a way that it could in following days or weeks be inadvertently moved to another location (by, for example, being sucked into the slipstream of passing vehicles).

[Redacted]

Given the facts outlined above, this email is to ask for a further statement on the matter and one which gives the council's explanation of why no knotweed canes are to be found at a site where a stand of Japanese knotweed has been recently cut down.

Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 September 2016 11:34  
**To:** FOI  
**Subject:** FW: [REDACTED] inquiry - Japanese knotweed FOI08887

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 July 2016 12:58  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: [REDACTED] inquiry - Japanese knotweed

Thanks [REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 July 2016 12:56  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: [REDACTED] inquiry - Japanese knotweed

Hi [REDACTED]

Here's the email query I sent in previously about Japanese knotweed claims. If you could get an answer in a couple of days, that would be great.

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Regards

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 June 2016 16:40  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] inquiry - Japanese knotweed

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I am looking at the cost of Japanese knotweed claims on public body land owners.

Could you please let me know what provisions the local authority has made for claims in relation to Japanese knotweed?

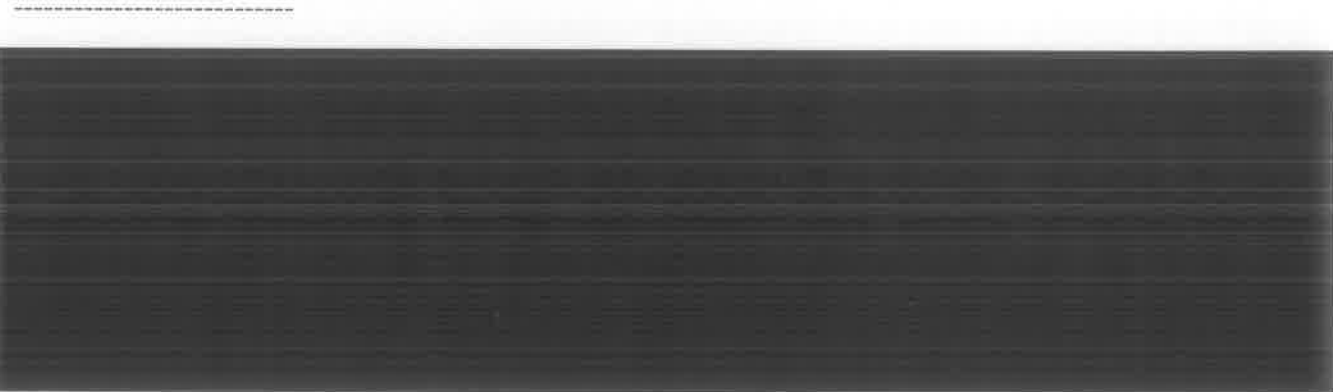
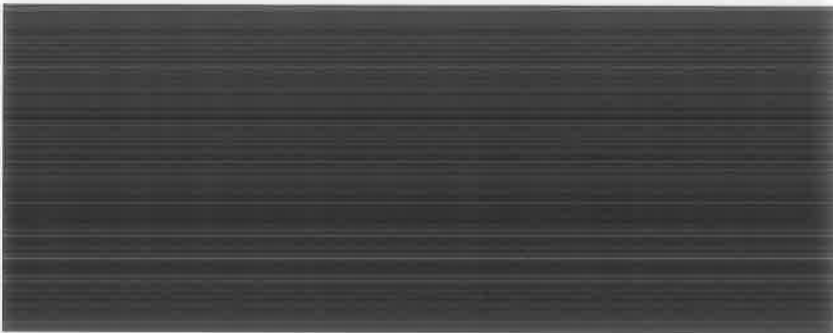
For example, has the risk been insured and what is the limit of the cover under the insurance?

Can you also say how many claims the local authority has had in the last financial year and what the average or typical value has been of any damages the council has paid out.

Also what is the average or typical amount of costs involved in such cases for both the council's lawyers and the claimant's lawyers?

If you could pass on these figures by next Wednesday (29 June) that would be great.

Many thanks





[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 September 2016 11:41  
**To:** FOI  
**Subject:** FW: Knotweed (FOI08887)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 03 August 2016 12:37  
**To:** Wakelam, Matthew  
**Subject:** RE: Knotweed

Hi Matt,

Has Cllr Ralph Cook been in touch re Japanese Knotweed?

I've just had [REDACTED] on telling me that Cllr Cook believes our statement – not transporting JK waste off-site as per codes of practice – is contradicted by our actions at a site in Trowbridge/ St Mellons. According to [REDACTED] Cllr Cook is saying that highways staff removed the waste at this site and that [REDACTED] have footage of them doing it!

Cllr Cook will be giving you a ring – but I thought I'd give you the heads-up. Please let me know if you believe there's any potential for some negative media coverage as a result of what he tells you.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Wakelam, Matthew  
**Sent:** 02 August 2016 15:05  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Knotweed

See below – not sure what I can add....

Matt Wakelam MSc, C.Eng, MICE, ACSM.

Rheolwr Gweithredol - Pennaeth Seilwaith a Gweithrediadau  
Operational Manager – Head of Infrastructure and Operations

Gweithrediadau'r Ddinas  
City Operations

Cyngor Dinas Caerdydd  
City of Cardiff Council

☎ 029 223 30106

County Hall  
Room 301  
Atlantic Wharf  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW

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*The Council welcomes correspondence in English or Welsh and we will ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice, whether that's English, Welsh or in Bilingual format as long as we know which you prefer. Please contact 029 22 330106 / [mwakelam@caerdydd.gov.uk](mailto:mwakelam@caerdydd.gov.uk) to register your language choice. If we do not receive your language choice, we will continue to correspond with you in accordance with current procedure. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.*

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 02 August 2016 13:38

**To:** Wakelam, Matthew <[MWakelam@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:MWakelam@cardiff.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** Maidment, Jon <[JMaidment@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:JMaidment@cardiff.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Knotweed

Matt

I have checked with Street Ops and confirm no works have been carried out recently. Street Ops visited Site last week with Complete Weed Control, and the JK has been previously cut back and left on site as recommended for an alternative method of treatment compared to waiting until September which is the only time in the year we can spray effectively.

Just to let you know CWC are currently preparing a report of the extent of JK on the principal road network for me, which I plan to treat in September as recommended. There appears to be more JK on the principal network than we may realise.

Please let me know if you require any further info

[REDACTED]

City Operations / Gweithrediadau'r Ddinas  
City of Cardiff Council / Cyngor Dinas Caerdiff

[REDACTED]

County Hall  
Room 301  
Atlantic Wharf  
Cardiff

CF10 4UW

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**From:** Wakelam, Matthew  
**Sent:** 02 August 2016 13:04  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Maidment, Jon; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Knotweed

[REDACTED]

See below.

Did any specific weed work take place in Leckwith?

I fed back to [REDACTED] the information I was given by [REDACTED] in how we generally treat knotweed. Obviously we are being scrutinised to a significant level. I am hoping complete weed control or parks came in?

From my perspective my officers do not remove vegetation from site as they have to pick it up and dispose - it is therefore left in-situ.

Can you look at this.

Thanks

Matt

Sent with Good ([www.good.com](http://www.good.com))

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 02, 2016 12:55 PM GMT Standard Time  
**To:** Wakelam, Matthew  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Knotweed

Hi [REDACTED] - [REDACTED] has been on a site visit and queries our statement. In light of this have we anything further to add?

Cheers,

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 August 2016 12:52  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Knotweed

Hi [REDACTED]

This is what we said in our last statement and the facts he is disputing are in the email below.

A council spokesman said: "This area of Japanese Knotweed on the A4232 had previously been identified during routine grass cutting. Following its identification the area was treated over the winter. Regrowth occurred and this was then cut back, taking the recommended precaution of not using flails and leaving deposits to mulch down to avoid cuttings being transported off-site. This course of action is in line with published Welsh Government codes of practice."

Cheers

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 August 2016 12:38  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Knotweed

Hi [REDACTED]

As discussed, I re-visited the Leckwith site on the A4232 yesterday evening (1 August) with a professional in the weed-control industry and found the facts on the ground hard to reconcile with the statement below.

Our first visit there was on 15 June [REDACTED]

The knotweed stand at this time was at head height in places and was too thick to walk through without forcing someone on to the sliproad. The canes were, naturally, quite substantial.

A week or so later, my contact noticed that the site had been cleared and sprayed with some kind of herbicide. There were no canes or other Japanese knotweed material at the location. It was completely bare.

The Japanese knotweed has since grown back to around 2ft high and is 3ft high in places. This is both at the large stand close to the underpass and further up – which is now accessible due to the original stand being removed – where the sliproad joins the A4232.

During our visit yesterday, we found the dried, brown remains of a single, thin, Japanese knotweed cane. There were no others there. I took photographs of the re-growth which will show that there are no canes on the ground.

So I cannot see how this observation can be reconciled with the assertion that "deposits" were left to "mulch down to avoid cuttings being transported off site". As I said, the site was cleared back in June.

Also, I believe there is a further discrepancy in the council's statement; that the site was "treated over the winter". Japanese knotweed dies back over the winter. All that is left above ground is the dead woody canes from the previous year's growth. Cutting these down would hardly be called "treatment" as they would not deter the expect growth (as opposed to re-growth) in the spring.

So I query what treatment has been carried out at the site both in the winter and recently and why?

Regards

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 27 July 2016 17:22  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Knotweed

Hi [Redacted]

Statement below -

A council spokesman said: "This area of Japanese Knotweed on the A4232 had previously been identified during routine grass cutting. Following its identification the area was treated over the winter. Regrowth occurred and this was then cut back, taking the recommended precaution of not using flails and leaving deposits to mulch down to avoid cuttings being transported off-site. This course of action is in line with published Welsh Government codes of practice."

Thanks  
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**Swyddog y Wasg / Press Officer**  
**Cyfathrebu a'r Cyfryngau / Communications & Media**  
**Cyngor Dinas Caerdydd / City of Cardiff Council**  
**Ebost / Email:** [Redacted]  
**Ffôn / Tel:** [Redacted]  
**Ystafell 508, Neuadd y Sir, Glanfa'r Iwerydd, CAERDYDD CF10 4UW**  
**Room 508, County Hall, Atlantic Wharf, CARDIFF CF10 4UW**



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\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*

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Mae'n bosibl bod gwybodaeth gyfrinachol yn y neges hon. Os na chyfeirir y neges atoch chi'n benodol (neu os nad ydych chi'n gyfrifol am drosglwyddo'r neges i'r person a enwir), yna ni chewch gopio na throsglwyddo'r neges. Mewn achos o'r fath, dylech ddiarhysu'r neges a hysbysu'r anfonwr drwy e-bost ar unwaith. Rhowch wybod i'r anfonydd ar unwaith os nad ydych chi neu eich cyflogydd yn caniatáu e-bost y Rhyngwrwd am negeseuon fel hon. Rhaid deall nad yw'r safbwyntiau, y casgliadau a'r wybodaeth arall yn y neges hon nad ydynt yn cyfeirio at fusnes swyddogol Cyngor Dinas a Sir Caerdydd yn cynrychioli barn y Cyngor Sir nad yn cael sel ei fendith. Caiff unrhyw negeseuon a anfonir at, neu o'r cyfeiriad e-bost hwn eu prosesu gan system E-bost Gorfforaethol Cyngor Sir Caerdydd a gallant gael eu harchwilio gan rywun heblaw'r person a enwir.

\*\*\*\*\*

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 September 2016 11:40  
**To:** FOI  
**Subject:** FW: Knotweed (FOI08887)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 August 2016 15:41  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
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Hi [REDACTED]

We have nothing further to add. Our statement is:

A council spokesman said: "This area of Japanese Knotweed on the A4232 had previously been identified during routine grass cutting. Following its identification the area was treated over the winter. Regrowth occurred and this was then cut back, taking the recommended precaution of not using flails and leaving deposits to mulch down to avoid cuttings being transported off-site. This course of action is in line with published Welsh Government codes of practice."

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Media Advisor / Ymgynghorydd Cyfryngau  
Communications & Media / Cyfathrebu a'r Cyfryngau  
City of Cardiff Council / Cyngor Dinas Caerdydd  
Tel / Ffon: [REDACTED]  
Email / Epost: [REDACTED]

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**To:** [REDACTED]  
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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  

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**Sent:** 27 July 2016 17:22  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
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Ffôn / Tel: [REDACTED]  
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\*\*\*\*\*

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 September 2016 11:39  
**To:** FOI  
**Subject:** FW: Knotweed (FOI08887)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 August 2016 15:29  
**To:** Wakelam, Matthew; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Knotweed

Thanks Matt

---

**From:** Wakelam, Matthew  
**Sent:** 02 August 2016 15:05  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Knotweed

See below – not sure what I can add....

Matt Wakelam MSc, C.Eng, MICE, ACSM.

Rheolwr Gweithredol - Pennaeth Seilwaith a Gweithrediadau  
Operational Manager – Head of Infrastructure and Operations

Gweithrediadau'r Ddinas  
City Operations

Cyngor Dinas Caerdydd  
City of Cardiff Council

☎ 029 223 30106

County Hall  
Room 301  
Atlantic Wharf  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW

---

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*Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn sicrhau ein bod yn cyfathrebu â chi yn yr iaith o'ch dewis, boed yn Saesneg, yn Gymraeg neu'n ddwyieithog cyhyd â'n bod yn ymwybodol o'ch dewis. Cysylltwch â 029 22 330106 / [mwakelam@caerdydd.gov.uk](mailto:mwakelam@caerdydd.gov.uk) i nodi dewis iaith. Os na fyddwn yn derbyn eich dewis*

*iaith, byddwn yn parhau i gyfathrebu â chi yn unol â'r weithdrefn bresennol. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi.*

*The Council welcomes correspondence in English or Welsh and we will ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice, whether that's English, Welsh or in Bilingual format as long as we know which you prefer. Please contact 029 22 330106 / [mwakelam@caerdydd.gov.uk](mailto:mwakelam@caerdydd.gov.uk) to register your language choice. If we do not receive your language choice, we will continue to correspond with you in accordance with current procedure. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.*

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 August 2016 13:38  
**To:** Wakelam, Matthew <[MWakelam@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:MWakelam@cardiff.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** Maidment, Jon <[JMaidment@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:JMaidment@cardiff.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Knotweed

Matt

I have checked with Street Ops and confirm no works have been carried out recently. Street Ops visited Site last week with Complete Weed Control, and the JK has been previously cut back and left on site as recommended for an alternative method of treatment compared to waiting until September which is the only time in the year we can spray effectively.

Just to let you know CWC are currently preparing a report of the extent of JK on the principal road network for me, which I plan to treat in September as recommended. There appears to be more JK on the principal network than we may realise.

Please let me know if you require any further info

[REDACTED]

City Operations / Gweithrediadau'r Ddinas  
City of Cardiff Council / Cyngor Dinas Caerdiff

[REDACTED]

County Hall  
Room 301  
Atlantic Wharf  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW

---

**From:** Wakelam, Matthew  
**Sent:** 02 August 2016 13:04  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Maidment, Jon; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Knotweed

[REDACTED]

See below.

Did any specific weed work take place in Leckwith?

I fed back to [REDACTED] the information I was given by [REDACTED] in how we generally treat knotweed. Obviously we are being scrutinised to a significant level. I am hoping complete weed control or parks came in?

From my perspective my officers do not remove vegetation from site as they have to pick it up and dispose - it is therefore left in-situ.

Can you look at this.

Thanks

Matt

Sent with Good ([www.good.com](http://www.good.com))

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 02, 2016 12:55 PM GMT Standard Time  
**To:** Wakelam, Matthew  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Knotweed

Hi Matt [REDACTED] has been on a site visit and queries our statement. In light of this have we anything further to add?

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 August 2016 12:52  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Knotweed

Hi [REDACTED]

This is what we said in our last statement and the facts he is disputing are in the email below.

A council spokesman said: "This area of Japanese Knotweed on the A4232 had previously been identified during routine grass cutting. Following its identification the area was treated over the winter. Regrowth occurred and this was then cut back, taking the recommended precaution of not using flails and leaving deposits to mulch down to avoid cuttings being transported off-site. This course of action is in line with published Welsh Government codes of practice."

Cheers

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 August 2016 12:38  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Knotweed

Hi [REDACTED]

As discussed, I re-visited the Leckwith site on the A4232 yesterday evening (1 August) with a professional in the weed-control industry and found the facts on the ground hard to reconcile with the statement below.

Our first visit there was on 15 June [REDACTED]

The knotweed stand at this time was at head height in places and was too thick to walk through without forcing someone on to the sliproad. The canes were, naturally, quite substantial.

A week or so later, my contact noticed that the site had been cleared and sprayed with some kind of herbicide. There were no canes or other Japanese knotweed material at the location. It was completely bare.

The Japanese knotweed has since grown back to around 2ft high and is 3ft high in places. This is both at the large stand close to the underpass and further up – which is now accessible due to the original stand being removed – where the sliproad joins the A4232.

During our visit yesterday, we found the dried, brown remains of a single, thin, Japanese knotweed cane. There were no others there. I took photographs of the re-growth which will show that there are no canes on the ground.

So I cannot see how this observation can be reconciled with the assertion that “deposits” were left to “mulch down to avoid cuttings being transported off site”. As I said, the site was cleared back in June.

Also, I believe there is a further discrepancy in the council’s statement; that the site was “treated over the winter”. Japanese knotweed dies back over the winter. All that is left above ground is the dead woody canes from the previous year’s growth. Cutting these down would hardly be called “treatment” as they would not deter the expect growth (as opposed to re-growth) in the spring.

So I query what treatment has been carried out at the site both in the winter and recently and why?

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 27 July 2016 17:22

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Knotweed

Hi [REDACTED]

Statement below -

A council spokesman said: “This area of Japanese Knotweed on the A4232 had previously been identified during routine grass cutting. Following its identification the area was treated over the winter. Regrowth occurred and this was then cut back, taking the recommended precaution of not using flails and leaving deposits to mulch down to

avoid cuttings being transported off-site. This course of action is in line with published Welsh Government codes of practice."

Thanks

Swyddog y Wasg / Press Officer  
Cyfathrebu a'r Cyfryngau / Communications & Media  
Cyngor Dinas Caerdydd / City of Cardiff Council

Ebost / Email:

Ffôn / Tel:

Ystafell 508, Neuadd y Sir, Glanfa'r Iwerydd, CAERDYDD CF10 4UW  
Room 508, County Hall, Atlantic Wharf, CARDIFF CF10 4UW



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Mae'n bosibl bod gwybodaeth gyfrinachol yn y neges hon. Os na chyfeirir y neges atoch chi'n benodol (neu os nad ydych chi'n gyfrifol am drosglwyddo'r neges i'r person a enwir), yna ni chewch gopio na throsglwyddo'r neges. Mewn achos o'r fath, dylech ddinistrio'r neges a hysbysu'r anfonwr drwy e-bost ar unwaith. Rhowch wybod i'r anfonydd ar unwaith os nad ydych chi neu eich cyflogydd yn caniatáu e-bost y Rhynggrwyd am negeseuon fel hon. Rhaid deall nad yw'r safbwyntiau, y casgliadau a'r wybodaeth arall yn y neges hon nad ydynt yn cyfeirio at fusnes swyddogol Cyngor Dinas a Sir Caerdydd yn cynrychioli barn y Cyngor Sir nad yn cael sel ei fendith. Caiff unrhyw negeseuon a anfonir at, neu o'r cyfeiriad e-bost hwn eu prosesu gan system E-bost Gorfforaethol Cyngor Sir Caerdydd a gallant gael eu harchwilio gan rywun heblaw'r person a enwir.

\*\*\*\*\*



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 September 2016 11:39  
**To:** FOI  
**Subject:** FW: Knotweed (FOI08887)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 August 2016 12:56  
**To:** Wakelam, Matthew  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Knotweed

Hi Matt – [REDACTED] has been on a site visit and queries our statement. In light of this have we anything further to add?

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 August 2016 12:52  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Knotweed

Hi [REDACTED]

This is what we said in our last statement and the facts he is disputing are in the email below.

A council spokesman said: "This area of Japanese Knotweed on the A4232 had previously been identified during routine grass cutting. Following its identification the area was treated over the winter. Regrowth occurred and this was then cut back, taking the recommended precaution of not using flails and leaving deposits to mulch down to avoid cuttings being transported off-site. This course of action is in line with published Welsh Government codes of practice."

Cheers

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 August 2016 12:38  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Knotweed

Hi [REDACTED]

As discussed, I re-visited the Leckwith site on the A4232 yesterday evening (1 August) with a professional in the weed-control industry and found the facts on the ground hard to reconcile with the statement below.

Our first visit there was on 15 June [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The knotweed stand at this time was at head height in places and was too thick to walk through without forcing someone on to the sliproad. The canes were, naturally, quite substantial.

A week or so later, my contact noticed that the site had been cleared and sprayed with some kind of herbicide. There were no canes or other Japanese knotweed material at the location. It was completely bare.

The Japanese knotweed has since grown back to around 2ft high and is 3ft high in places. This is both at the large stand close to the underpass and further up – which is now accessible due to the original stand being removed – where the sliproad joins the A4232.

During our visit yesterday, we found the dried, brown remains of a single, thin, Japanese knotweed cane. There were no others there. I took photographs of the re-growth which will show that there are no canes on the ground.

So I cannot see how this observation can be reconciled with the assertion that “deposits” were left to “mulch down to avoid cuttings being transported off site”. As I said, the site was cleared back in June.

Also, I believe there is a further discrepancy in the council’s statement; that the site was “treated over the winter”. Japanese knotweed dies back over the winter. All that is left above ground is the dead woody canes from the previous year’s growth. Cutting these down would hardly be called “treatment” as they would not deter the expect growth (as opposed to re-growth) in the spring.

So I query what treatment has been carried out at the site both in the winter and recently and why?

Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

---

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 27 July 2016 17:22  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Knotweed

Hi [Redacted]

Statement below -

A council spokesman said: “This area of Japanese Knotweed on the A4232 had previously been identified during routine grass cutting. Following its identification the area was treated over the winter. Regrowth occurred and this was then cut back, taking the recommended precaution of not using flails and leaving deposits to mulch down to avoid cuttings being transported off-site. This course of action is in line with published Welsh Government codes of practice.”

Thanks

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**Swyddog y Wasg / Press Officer**  
**Cyfathrebu a'r Cyfryngau / Communications & Media**

Cyngor Dinas Caerdydd / City of Cardiff Council

Ebost / Email:

Ffôn / Tel:

Ystafell 508, Neuadd y Sir, Glanfa'r Iwerydd, CAERDYDD CF10 4UW  
Room 508, County Hall, Atlantic Wharf, CARDIFF CF10 4UW



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\*\*\*\*\*

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 September 2016 11:47  
**To:** FOI  
**Subject:** FW: [REDACTED] Japanese knotweed - FoI inquiry (FOI08887)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 01 September 2016 16:11  
**To:** FOI; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: [REDACTED] - Japanese knotweed - FoI inquiry

Thanks [REDACTED] I've forwarded this request to our FOI team.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 01 September 2016 15:56  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] - Japanese knotweed - FoI inquiry

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your call a few moments ago saying the local authority has nothing to add to its previous statement about my inquiry relating to the clearance of a stand of Japanese knotweed on the Leckwith slip road of the A4232 some time after 15 June this year.

This email is a request under the Freedom of Information Act in relation to the matter.

Below, in italics, is a statement Cardiff council has issued twice on the subject:

*A council spokesman said: "This area of Japanese Knotweed on the A4232 had previously been identified during routine grass cutting. Following its identification the area was treated over the winter. Regrowth occurred and this was then cut back, taking the recommended precaution of not using flails and leaving deposits to mulch down to avoid cuttings being transported off-site. This course of action is in line with published Welsh Government codes of practice."*

This is to request a copy of all documents relating to the clearance of the Japanese knotweed stand referred to above and the following media inquiries up to and including this FoI request.

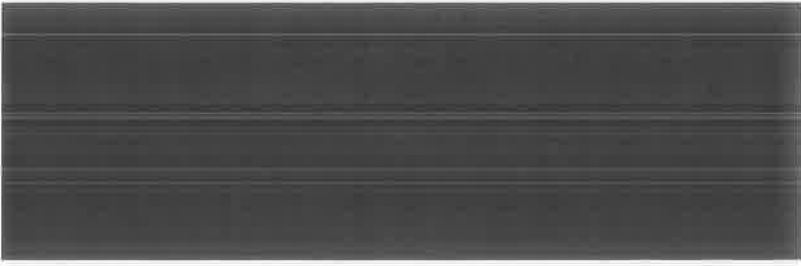
This may include (but is not restricted to) any paper documents (such as worksheets for the job from conception to completion and relating permits); emails (such as those involved in forming the media responses), notes, records of phone conversations, diary entries, text messages, etc.

In relation to the media statement above I would also like the local authority to identify the specific Welsh Government codes of practice referred to, along with a list of the tools (hand or machine) used to cut down the stand in question as well as identification of where, when and how those tools were cleaned for biosecurity purposes.

I would also like the local authority to provide an example of the training and information it provides to staff who can expect to deal with Japanese knotweed as part of their job and to show that this training had been provided to the staff who carried out the work in question.

If you have any queries or would like more detail, please feel free to contact me,

Regards



[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 September 2016 11:47  
**To:** FOI  
**Subject:** FW: [REDACTED] - Japanese knotweed - FoI inquiry (FOI08887)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 01 September 2016 16:20  
**To:** Wakelam, Matthew; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: [REDACTED] - Japanese knotweed - FoI inquiry

Hi,

Just to give you both a heads-up – this is the enquiry from [REDACTED] which has been passed to the FOI team.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 01 September 2016 15:56  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] - Japanese knotweed - FoI inquiry

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your call a few moments ago saying the local authority has nothing to add to its previous statement about my inquiry relating to the clearance of a stand of Japanese knotweed on the Leckwith slip road of the A4232 some time after 15 June this year.

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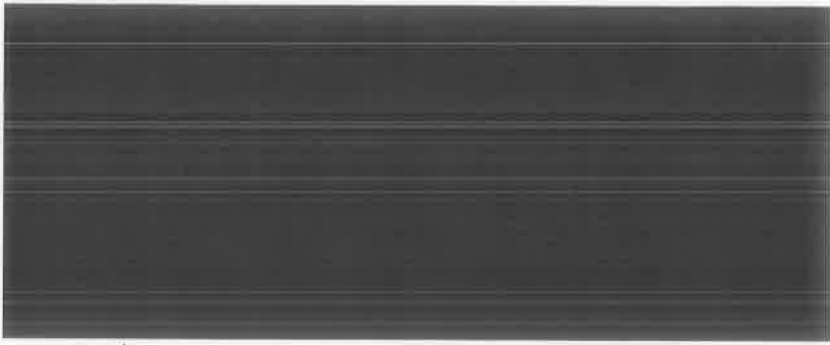
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I would also like the local authority to provide an example of the training and information it provides to staff who can expect to deal with Japanese knotweed as part of their job and to show that this training had been provided to the staff who carried out the work in question.

If you have any queries or would like more detail, please feel free to contact me.

Regards





[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 September 2016 11:46  
**To:** FOI  
**Subject:** FW: [REDACTED] inquiry - Japanese knotweed (FOI08887)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 August 2016 09:29  
**To:** Wakelam, Matthew  
**Subject:** FW: [REDACTED] inquiry - Japanese knotweed

Hi Matt...

[REDACTED] is back re what happened to the cut Japanese knotweed in Leckwith. Have we got anything further to add. What do you think happened to the cuttings? Are we confident that they've mulched into the ground?

Thanks,

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 11 August 2016 16:54  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] inquiry - Japanese knotweed

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email of 02.02.16 saying Cardiff council has nothing to add to the statement [REDACTED] sent a few days earlier regarding my inquiry about the clearance of a stand of Japanese knotweed on the Leckwith slip road of the A4232 some time after 15 June this year.

As you know, and bearing in mind that Japanese knotweed is a controlled waste under two pieces of legislation (the **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981** and the **Environmental Protection Act 1990**) I have asked questions about the clearance of the stand in question.

I am not persuaded my questions have been fully answered by the statement(s) (in fact just one statement that is re-stated in response to further questioning).

Specifically, the statement(s) says "deposits" were left to "mulch down to avoid cuttings being transported off site". As I have said, I and a witness saw the site cleared of all vegetation. There were no cuttings to be seen.

Further, during a visit to the site on 1 August, I did then find one bare, brown knotweed cane which would correspond with it having been cut down and left some weeks earlier. It was the only dead cane amid the fresh growth of knotweed. As I have said, I have photographs of the re-growth which will show that there are no canes on the ground that would correspond with a whole stand being felled.

So, if the fresh, green Japanese knotweed canes that were cut down were not taken away, then there is a mystery as why only one cane can be found there now. And it is a mystery that is not answered in the statement(s) you and [REDACTED] provided.

Any Japanese knotweed removed from a location must be accounted for. And any that is left on a site must not be left in such a way that it could in following days or weeks be inadvertently moved to another location (by, for example, being sucked into the slipstream of passing vehicles).



Given the facts outlined above, this email is to ask for a further statement on the matter and one which gives the council's explanation of why no knotweed canes are to be found at a site where a stand of Japanese knotweed has been recently cut down.

Regards

