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Reference: 59915353

Email:

kcc.information@email.icasework.com

Date: 18 September 2025

Dear ###

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 relating to Consent to Hang Flags. Please see the response provided below:

***Under the freedom of information act, could you please let me know who has asked for consent to hang flags on public property (managed by the council, such as street lamps) in Faversham, Kent, and who has been granted consent? Under Section 132 of the Highways Act 1980, affixing anything on public infrastructure, such as lamp posts, requires the express consent of the local highways authority or council. Failure to do so is an offence.***

*Kent County Council has not received applications for the attachment of flags to street lighting assets in Faversham Town Centre. The flags have been attached without permission, however, the Council has determined that they will be allowed to remain unless they are deemed to cause a safety risk as stated in the recent press release:*

*“KCC Highways teams will not be removing flags from buildings and lamp posts across Kent unless they pose a safety risk to road users and the public.*

*However, the council is advising people to put safety first and not to scale lamp posts and tall structures to display Union and St George flags, risking their own personal safety.*

*Flags that are hindering the work of KCC and district and borough councils, like those blocking the view of CCTV cameras, will be removed as will anything affecting road signage and the safety of the public.*

*KCC Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport Peter Osborne said: “ We very much recognise that people wish to express their views, but we must use common sense.*

*“ Flags will have to be removed if they are in any way putting people’s safety at risk.”*

*KCC is also reminding people that the flying of any flag is subject to some standard conditions and requires the permission of the owner of the site on which it is displayed. This includes the Highway Authority if the flag is placed on highway land.*

*Any incidents of trespass, inappropriate or offensive behaviour or messaging will be reported to the relevant authorities.”*

If you are unhappy with this response, and believe KCC has not complied with legislation, you have 40 working days from the date of this response to ask for a review.

You can do this by following our complaints process; details can be found at this link <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/complaints-and-compliments#tab-10> on our website. Please quote the reference number 59915353 in any future communications.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you can appeal to the Information Commissioner, who oversees compliance with both the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Details of what you need to do, should you wish to pursue this course of action, are available from the Information Commissioner's website <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>, or you can phone the ICO Helpline on 0303 123 1113.

Yours sincerely

Peter Rose  
Information Access Officer  
CED - GLD - Information Resilience and Transparency