

PUBLIC DOCUMENT | ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Anonymised Woo decision on an earlier resident request

Decision of the Municipality of Heerlen dated 21 June 2026

**IMPORTANT
TRANSLATION NOTE**

This is an independent English translation of the anonymised Dutch Woo decision dated 21 June 2026, reference 736103. It is provided solely for public information and international readers. It is not an official translation by the Municipality of Heerlen. The Dutch original is the authoritative document and governs any legal interpretation.

ORIGINAL DATE	21 June 2026
REFERENCE	736103
REQUEST DATE	22 March 2026
ORIGINAL LANGUAGE	Dutch
PUBLIC REDACTIONS	Requester, personal contact details and staff name
TRANSLATION PUBLISHED	10 August 2026

Independent public-interest dossier by Michel Peen

TRANSLATED BODY OF THE ORIGINAL DECISION

Decision on your Woo request dated 22 March 2026

DATE	21 June 2026
REFERENCE	736103
TEAM	Legal Affairs
TELEPHONE	14 045 / 045-560 5040

Dear Madam,

In your Woo request of 22 March 2026, received on 22 March 2026, you invoked the Dutch Open Government Act (Wet open overheid, Woo) and requested information about the use, development and/or preparation of systems employing artificial intelligence (AI), data analysis and/or the monitoring of residents within the Municipality of Heerlen.

By letter of 16 April 2026, we confirmed receipt of your request and extended the decision period by two weeks. By letter of 20 April 2026, we then asked you to specify your request more precisely because it concerned a very broad and unlimited range of policy areas.

We suspended the decision period at that time. On 28 May 2026, we received from you a notice of default concerning the failure to decide on your Woo request in time.

By this decision, we decide on your request.

Legal framework

We are treating your request as a request under the Dutch Open Government Act (Woo). The relevant provisions of the Woo are included in Annex 1 to this decision.

Document inventory

Documents already public

In response to your request, we assessed which documents fall within its scope. It was established that the documents relating to this request had already been inventoried and assessed in connection with another Woo request.

These are the same documents that were partially disclosed in that earlier Woo decision. For that reason, we did not carry out a new, separate search for this request. We will send these documents to you by email.

Considerations

The inventory showed that the documents falling within the scope of your request had already been disclosed following an earlier Woo request.

The Woo is intended to provide access to information that is not yet public. For documents that are already public, there is no obligation to conduct another substantive assessment under the Woo. We therefore refer to the earlier Woo decision under which these documents were disclosed.

Decision

Because we cannot grant your request, as the documents concerned are public, we reject your request.

Yours faithfully,
Municipal Executive of Heerlen,
on its behalf,
[name anonymised]
Acting Team Manager, Legal Affairs

This letter was generated electronically and has therefore not been signed.

Objection

Do you disagree with this decision?

You may lodge an objection. You must do so within six weeks after the decision has been notified; otherwise, the Municipality may be unable to consider the objection. This also applies if you are still consulting the official handling the matter. An objection may be lodged digitally or in writing.

Digital submission

Use the digital form at www.heerlen.nl/bezwaarschrift-indienen. DigiD is required. Follow the steps and consent to further contact by email; you will then no longer receive paper correspondence.

Important: an objection cannot be lodged by sending an email to the Municipality's general email address.

Written submission

You may also send the notice of objection by post to: Municipal Executive of the Municipality of Heerlen, PO Box 1, 6400 AA Heerlen, the Netherlands. During office hours, it may also be handed in at the reception desk of the municipal offices, Geleenstraat 27.

The notice of objection must include at least:

- the decision against which you are objecting;
- the date and reference number of that decision, with a copy of the decision enclosed;
- your name, address and place of residence;
- the reasons for your objection;
- your signature; and
- if you are objecting on behalf of another person, a written authorisation.

Interim relief

Does the decision cause you immediate difficulties, and have you lodged an objection? You may ask the court for a temporary measure. This is known as interim relief. Costs are payable for such an application.

Send the application to: Preliminary Relief Judge, Limburg District Court, PO Box 950, 6040 AZ Roermond, the Netherlands. The application may also be submitted digitally. Further information is available at www.rechtspraak.nl under administrative-law procedures for interim relief.