



## Response to Request for Information

**Reference**      FOI 003372

**Date**            19 March 2019

### ***Universal Credit***

#### **Request:**

Can I please request under the Freedom of Information Act:

- 1a) The number of Universal Credit claimants currently in rent arrears on their local authority-owned home? **2,140 (as at end of February 2019 City Wide).**
- 1b) The combined value of all these arrears? **£928,245.08**
  
- 2a) The number of Housing Benefit claimants currently in rent arrears on their local authority-owned home? **1,714 (as at end of February 2019 City Wide).**
- 2b) The combined value of all these arrears? **£357,499.43**
  
- 3) The total amount of rent, in £, which was owed but never paid by claimants of Universal Credit for local authority-owned dwellings since January 1 2013?  
**Your request for information has now been considered and the City of Wolverhampton Council is not obliged to supply the information you requested for the reasons set out below.**

**Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires City of Wolverhampton Council, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant with a notice which:**

- (a) states the fact,**
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and**
- (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies:**

**In relation to your particular request, the following exemption applies:**

#### **Section 12 - Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit**

**We can confirm that the Council holds information falling within the description specified in your request. However, Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows a public authority to refuse a request if the cost of providing**

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the information to the applicant would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information.

The Regulations provide that the appropriate limit to be applied to requests received by local authorities is £450 (equivalent to 18 hours of work). In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

- (a) *Determining whether it holds the information,*
  - (b) *Locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
  - (c) *Retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
- and*
- (d) *Extracting the information from a document containing it.*

*For the purposes of the estimate the costs of performing these activities should be estimated at a rate of £25 per hour.*

The information appertaining to your request is not easily accessible and as such this information is not held as a distinct set able to be retrieved or reported on. To get the information would require a full scale look into all individual records. This would be a manual exercise and as such we believe that the aggregated time it would take to collate the information would be in excess of 18 hours (equivalent to a notional cost of £450).

- 4) For each municipal year since 2013/14 and including 2018/19 to date, the number of evictions per year of households in receipt of Housing Benefit (separate figures by year please)?  
*As per question 3*
- 5) For each municipal year since 2013/14 and including 2018/19 to date, the number of evictions per year of households in receipt of Universal Credit (separate figures by year please)?  
*As per question 3*

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