

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 000633
Date 24 November 2016

Social Housing

Request:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information:

1. How many people are currently waiting to receive social housing in your council area?
[8641 as at 10/12/2016](#)
2. What is the longest time one person has had to wait for social housing in your council area? This question relates to the past three years.
[Please refer to the text below.](#)
3. What is the mean average time someone has had to wait to receive social housing in your council area each year? This question relates to the past three years.
[Please refer to the text below.](#)
4. What is the median average time someone has had to wait to receive social housing in your council area each year? This question relates to the past three years.
[Please refer to the text below.](#)
5. How many people applying for social housing are rejected each year in your council area? This question relates to the past three years.
[Wolverhampton operates an open housing register and anyone who applies to Wolverhampton and is eligible will be included.](#)
[During 2015/16 -14 were excluded on grounds of fraud or ASB](#)
6. How many people reject the first offer of social housing made to them in your council area each year? This question relates to the past three years.
[2013-14 11.89% \(334 applicants\)](#)
[2014-15 12.65% \(293 applicants\)](#)
[2015-16 11.84% \(289 applicants\) 12.15% overall.](#)

[In regards to questions 2, 3 and 4, 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 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 questions 2, 3 and 4 is not easily accessible as the information is not available in a reportable format. To get the information would require a full scale look into all the individual files of all the applicants housed over the past three years. 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).