

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 000641
Date 28 November 2016

House of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) - Register

Request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request information on public registers and registers held as public records regarding Wolverhampton City Council.

I am a local landlord and property investor and I am interested in providing good quality housing stock for private rented, LHA, and students in the Wolverhampton area.

Could you kindly send me your most current list of licensed HMOs (House of Multiple Occupancy) for the Wolverhampton area?

I am also interested in bringing empty homes in the area back into use. Could you please advise me on the best way for regarding this and if there are any grants or funding available to bring properties back into use?

We can confirm that the department holds information that you have asked for in relation to the above. However, the information is exempt under section 21 of the FOI Act because it is reasonably accessible to you, and I am pleased to inform you that you can access it on our website via the following links:

<http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/article/3525/House-in-multiple-occupation-HMO-licence>
<http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/article/2486/Empty-properties>

Section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act exempts disclosure of information that is reasonably accessible by other means, and the terms of the exemption mean that we do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest for you to have the information.

You can find out more about Section 21 by reading the extract from the Act, available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/21>

We do not have a register for un-licensed HMOs.

We have an Article 4 direction for restricting numbers of new HMOs which will come into force next year.

The current Empty Property Strategy is also available on-line and there are no

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

financial incentives for owners to bring properties back into use; the Council instead has a wide range of solutions to ensure empty property is brought back into use appropriately.

All of our landlords will be required to be star rated for management and property conditions through Rent with Confidence (please refer to www.rentwithconfidence.org.uk for further information) to ensure that all private rented property is safe and not detrimental to the health and wellbeing of residents .