

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 001251
Date 21 June 2017

Social Housing

Request:

I write to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and, where applicable, under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

I am requesting information relating to the financial year from 01 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, or the equivalent financial year for the council ("the year"). I am aware that this will mean that the data collected for each question may not be directly comparable.

Choice Based Lettings:

1. The total number of people added to the local authority's housing waiting list, or otherwise made eligible to bid for social housing from 01 April 2015 to 31 March 2016?
[5301 applications were added to the housing register between these dates.](#)
2. The total number of lettings made through a choice based lettings or equivalent scheme during the year from 01 April 2015 to 31 March 2016?
[1828 lettings were made 01 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.](#)
3. The total amount spent on the Choice Based Lettings programme or equivalent scheme during the year from 01 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 by the local authority. This should where possible include all costs?
For example, if the authority pays for software I would like this to be included in the calculation. If the authority pays for software that is used for other purposes, please provide the full cost of the software and the other purposes it is used for so I can work out whether or not we will factor in this cost?
[Cost in relation to the CBL module = £2,282.96 per annum](#)
[Cost for Telephone bidder in relation to CBL = £3,022.64 per annum](#)
4. The total amount spent (including staff costs) on any other processes involved in administering applications to join the housing waiting list, or otherwise to apply to be made eligible to bid for social housing from 01 April 2015 to 31 March 2016?
[We are unable to provide an answer in relation to this as it would exceed the appropriate time limit. In order to provide an accurate figure for this we would need to find out:](#)

How many staff are involved in providing support/administration

Pay scale of each staff member

Proportion of time each staff member takes on supporting this

Due to the sheer number of service areas supporting this would cover we estimate it take approximately 45 hours to calculate this information.

Please note that would not involve staff at City of Wolverhampton Council who would be involved in providing support for CBL so once you incorporated this the timescale would increase even more.

Environmental Health:

1. The total number of cases worked on by the council's environmental health team during the year?
475 new requests for service (Reactive work) Not including existing caseload and licensing.
2. The total number of cases worked on by the council's environmental health team related to all rented residential housing (including all types of rented property including homes owned by the council, a registered provider or a private landlord) during the year?
We only deal with the private rented sector, numbers provided as above
3. The total number of staff hours spent on all cases related to all rented residential housing?
9,620 hours
4. The cost (including salaries and administration) to the council of work done on cases related to all rented residential housing?
£170,000

For the sake of clarification, I would like to add the following points:

- We do not request information relation to queries covered by the Environmental Health team which do not relate to housing, for example general queries relating to noise and pollution.
- If the local authority does not have an Environmental Health team, but has a Public Protection Team or equivalent (providing equivalent services) can I please have the relevant information relating to this team instead.
- I do not need a breakdown of these numbers by tenure types. Instead we are requesting a figure for costs relating to all types of rented housing.