

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 001384
Date 02 August 2017

Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS)

Request:

Please see request for information below:

Please provide information for 1/4/2016 to 31/03/2017 that relates to your risk assessments of HMOs in your local authority area (including those based on the Housing Health and Safety Rating System {HHSRS} pursuant to Housing Act 2014), specifying:

- (a) how many assessments you conducted;
The number of HMO inspections carried out from 01.04.2016 to 31.03.2017 = 91.
- (b) how many of these identified fire hazards (as per no.24 of the HHSRS);
- (c) how many of these resulted in enforcement action (specifying if possible what type of action); and
- (d) to the extent known, how many of the HMOs at (b) and (c) above were used fully or in part for the purpose of asylum accommodation pursuant to the Home office's 'Compass' contract with G4S for asylum accommodation?

In response to questions (b)(c) and (d), we can confirm that the City of Wolverhampton Council cannot 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 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 these questions 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).

For your information, the Council is currently revising it's data recording of such action to enable such information to be more readily accessible and reportable in future.