

CITY OF  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
COUNCIL

## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 001578  
Date            16 October 2017

### *Discretionary Housing Payments*

#### **Request:**

Q1. What was the council's total DHP allocation (spent and unspent) for the last five financial years?

£

2012/13 – 202,097  
2013/14 – 633,653  
2014/15 – 801,977  
2015/16 – 685,257  
2016/17 – 806,530

Q2. What percentage of the council's total DHP funding for the last five financial years was paid out in awards?

%

2012/13 – 37  
2013/14 – 92.78  
2014/15 – 100.30  
2015/16 – 99.92  
2016/17 – 98.48

Q3. Did your council exceed its government Discretionary Housing Payment allocation in any of those 5 financial years?

Yes

Q4. If Yes, did your council top up its government allocation? What was the top up amount and in which years?

£

2012/13 - 0  
2013/14 - 0  
2014/15 – 2,099  
2015/16 - 0  
2016/17 - 0

- Q5. Did your council have any unspent DHP budget at the end of those years year?  
If Yes, how much? And which year?

£  
2012/13 – 128,165  
2013/14 – 45,778  
2014/15 - 0  
2015/16 - 524  
2016/17 – 12,254

- Q6. How many applications for Discretionary Housing Payments were made to your council by eligible applicants in each of those 5 financial years?

(By “eligible applicants,” I mean DHP applicants who were in receipt of housing benefit or Universal Credit housing costs at the time of their applications and who applied for a Discretionary Housing Payment for help with housing payment problems that DHPs can be used to cover (for example, the bedroom tax, rent shortfall due to LHA caps, etc).

2012/13 - 318  
2013/14 – 1,454  
2014/15 – 2,094  
2015/16 – 2,332  
2016/17 – 2,301

- Q7. How many of those applications were rejected/unsuccessful?

2012/13 - 17  
2013/14 - 283  
2014/15 - 362  
2015/16 - 312  
2016/17 - 295

- Q8. What were the three main reasons that eligible DHP applicants had their DHP applications turned down in the 2016-2017 financial year?

Please note that we only have four reasons to choose from as shown below.

	Income Exceeds Expenditure	Already in Receipt of Maximum Benefit	No HB/UC Entitlement	Other
2012/13	15	2	0	0
2013/14	202	37	17	27
2014/15	180	48	19	115
2015/16	87	28	16	181
2016/17	34	62	40	159

- Q9. Does your council restrict the number of DHP awards an applicant can receive?  
Our Policy does not restrict the number of awards an applicant can receive.