

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 003008
Date 28 November 2018

Housing Options and Homelessness Preventions and Discharge (or relocation)

Request:

Please could you provide me with information on the following questions, for the years 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 (to date):

- 1)
 - a) The number of households living in your authority that were recorded as *homelessness prevented or relieved* by relocating to alternative accommodation in County Durham
 - b) Of those, the number of households *you* assisted with financial payment (whether travel, admin fees, white goods, furniture etc)
 - c) If a letting agent (rather than an individual private landlord or social housing) was involved, please state the name(s) of the letting agent(s) used, and the number of moves with each letting agent
 - d) The number of households the letting agent assisted with financial payment (whether travel, admin fees, white goods, furniture etc)
- 2)
 - a) The number of households living in your authority where your *main homelessness duty was discharged* (following a homelessness decision) by relocating to alternative accommodation in County Durham
 - b) Of those, the number of households *you* assisted with financial payment (whether travel, admin fees, white goods, furniture etc)
 - c) If a letting agent (rather than an individual private landlord or social housing) please state the name(s) of the letting agent used, and the number of moves with each letting agent
 - d) The number of households the letting agent assisted with financial payment (whether travel, admin fees, white goods, furniture etc)
- 3)
 - a) The number of households living in your authority where you assisted them, through *advice and signposting and/or partnership working*, to

relocate to alternative accommodation in County Durham. This will be outside of homelessness legislation but may involve an advertised relocation scheme from your area, by a landlord based in your area.

- b) Of those, the number of households *you* assisted with financial payment (whether travel, admin fees, white goods, furniture etc)
- c) If a letting agent (rather than an individual private landlord or social housing) please state the name(s) of the letting agent used, and the number of moves with each letting agent
- d) The number of households the letting agent assisted with financial payment (whether travel, admin fees, white goods, furniture etc)

	a	b	c	d
1 – prevention/relief				
2 – discharge duty				
3 – advice/relocation - other				

With reference to your above questions, your request for information has now been considered and the City of Wolverhampton Council is not obliged to 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 your request 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 800 individual records, 30 minutes at least for each record. 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).

Excess cost removes the City of Wolverhampton Council's obligation under the Freedom of Information, however under Section 16 – (the duty to provide advice and assistance, the Council may be able to provide answers to the request, should you wish to submit a refined request.