



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 1015121
Date 23 October 2015

Housing Benefit

Request:

- Total number of housing benefit claimants within the authority for 'exempt' accommodation for the current year and the total for each of the 5 previous years (calendar or financial, however it is collated).

- Total amount of housing benefit paid by the authority for 'exempt' accommodation for the current year and the total for each of the 5 previous years (calendar or financial, however it is collated).

Deregulated Tenancies - Exempt Accommodation			Registered Providers - Exempt Accommodation	
Year	Number of Housing Benefit Claimants	Amount of Housing Benefit Paid	Number of Housing Benefit Claimants	Amount of Housing Benefit Paid
2015/16	343	£1,039,207.77	741	£2,585,676.26
2014/15	421	£1,618,634.41		
2013/14	403	£1,649,754.47		
2012/13	294	£1,474,654.80		
2011/12	146	£966,358.79		
2010/11	136	£867,413.24		

Information relating to registered providers historic information regarding exempt accommodation has been withheld from disclosure.

The exemption engaged is Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

Section 12 of the FOI exempts Public Authorities from providing information where the estimated cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. Any estimate must be undertaken in accordance with the limits set in fees regulations made under Section 12 (5) of the FOI.

These Fees Regulations (SI 2004/3244 Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations allow for a refusal where the cost of compliance, for local authorities such as the Council, would exceed £450. As a guide, staff time to identify and extract this information is charged at a rate of £25 per hour.

In summary to provide you with this information would take us approximately 13 weeks:

- “(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”.