



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
Government**

Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Tel: 030 3444 0000

www.gov.uk/mhclg

Mr Paul Burnham

Date: 8 September 2021

Dear Mr Burnham,

Internal review under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 - 10846558

Thank you for your request for an internal review which we received on 22 June 2021. I am sorry that you are dissatisfied with our attempts to handle your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am the review officer appointed to undertake the internal review and I am writing to provide a response. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

Background

On 26 March 2021 you requested the following information:

1. The number of First Let General Needs Social Rent lets in each London local housing authority area in 2016/17, 2017/18, and 2018/19 with a total number and a breakdown by LA and PRP, with the number of lets by each number of bedrooms.
2. Mean average rents (exclusive of service charge) for these lets, with breakdowns by LA and PRP, for each London local housing authority area, and by the number of bedrooms in each case. In each case, in the 'Notes' to the tables which you have supplied, you say 'Tenancies with 4+ bedrooms have been merged into a single category in line with our standard statistical disclosure policy to ensure data confidentiality'.

I am now requesting that this information is provided with 4, 5, and 6+ beds shown separately

On 23 April 2021, the Department wrote to you stating that this information was exempt under section 40 FOIA (personal data), as the data for 4-6+ bedroom properties were very small and may possibly mean that individuals could be identified.

On 22 June 2021 you requested an internal review of the Department's response on the basis that MHCLG had previously released similar information where the number of properties concerned was not less than three.

Appeals Officer's Response

I have spoken with analysts involved with the CORE datasets and have reviewed the previous case to which you refer. I can confirm that the Department is now able to release the 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 splits with 1,2,3,4,5,6+ bedrooms, both nationally and by LA area. The only counts that have been suppressed are those means which are based on fewer than 3 data points. These data are consistent with the 2019/20 data previously provided.

Conclusion

Please find the relevant tables attached.

If you are unhappy with the outcome of this internal review, you can ask the independent Information Commissioner to investigate. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at email address casexxxx@xxx.xxx.uk or use their online form at ico.org.uk/concerns or call them on 0303 123 1113.

Yours sincerely

MHCLG FOI Team