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Information Officer
Customer Resolution Team
Housing and Modernisation
accessinfo@southwark.gov.uk

Rhiannon Hughes

request-571968-fb091e8a@whatdotheyknow.com

30 May 2019

Ref: 1063793

Dear Mx Hughes,

Re: Request for information

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on the 30 April 2019. This information is being provided as a statutory obligation under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Your Request:

- 1. How many households are on the Southwark Council housing waiting list?*
- 2. How many householders on the Southwark Council housing waiting list include a household member with a medical condition listed on their housing application?*

Our Response:

Having considered your request in relation to this query we have estimated that it will cost more than the appropriate limit to consider this question as it is currently worded. Your request would breach the appropriate limit to answer as we do not hold information on medical conditions noted on applications as statistical data and it is not in a format which would allow us to readily report on the data as requested in question 2. In order to collate this data we would need to manually interrogate over 11,000 application files at a minimum of ten minutes per file.

The appropriate limit is specified in regulations and for local government is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Consequently, we are not obliged by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to respond to your request (see section 12(1)).

We are conscious of our duty to advise and assist under section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act and should you wish to narrow the scope of your request, for example by refining question 2 to information on applications received in a specific one year period we would be happy to consider this as a fresh request.

Please note what we can say is that on our existing housing register we currently have 334 households whom have been awarded a medical priority.

Please note that under the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003 Southwark Council ask not to receive unsolicited marketing communications.

You are free to use the information provided for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, requires the permission of the copyright holder. If you have any queries or concerns then please contact us using the above details.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make an appeal for a review of our decision, you should contact us at accessinfo@southwark.gov.uk, quoting the reference number above.

If you are not content with the outcome of your appeal you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted our internal appeal procedure and you should contact her within 2 months of the outcome of your internal appeal. Further information on the Freedom of Information Act is available through the Information Commissioner at www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Murray
Information Officer