

Reference: 24938545

Date: 17 May 2022

Dear Joshua Mellor

Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000

We write in reference to your Freedom of Information request.

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides two distinct but related rights of access to information which impose corresponding duties on public authorities. These are:

- The duty to inform the applicant whether or not information is held by the authority and, if so,
- The duty to communicate that information to the applicant

I am pleased to provide some of the information you have requested. I have detailed below the information.

1. *The number of your local authority's households currently living in temporary accommodation, in each year, (for the last 10 years, or the nearest years that is available)*

Whilst the authority do not hold access to a specific dataset that can be interrogated to produce a report providing the information requested the local authority are required to provide data to central government pertaining to the overall number of households accommodated in temporary accommodation and the various types of accommodation provides to said households for various time periods.

Section 21 - Information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. This is an absolute exemption.

This information is compiled into reports generated by central government and is available within the public domain. The information can be accessed via the following link <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-homelessness>

This link will open a page entitled, Live tables on homelessness. Scroll down this page and you will find a variety of reports detailing homelessness data for various time periods. Upon downloading and opening a report scroll to the final tab entitled Households in temporary accommodation and select the local authority by clicking on the box entitled 'England' and selecting Barking and Dagenham from the drop-down menu. Analysis of the datasets provided by Central government suggest the reports compiled prior to 2019 do not appear to have the functionality of a drop-down menu to select individual local authorities, in these instances the local authority can be found by looking at the contents tab on each report and selecting 'temporary accommodation by type' or 'households leaving temporary accommodation'. This will lead to a tab displaying data on the types of temporary accommodation provided. The data

is sorted via a list of local authorities in alphabetical order, scroll down the list to Barking and Dagenham to view the requisite data.

For each year, please also provide the number of households or people housed by your local authority in each local authority area in England (e.g. 7 in Waltham Forest, 2 in Thurrock, please do not specify the area if no persons were housed there).

Unfortunately, the local authority do not hold reportable data on the number households in temporary accommodation within specific locations for each of the years requested.

Please also provide the average number of months or years each household or people have remained in temporary accommodation.

Unfortunately, the local authority do not hold reportable data pertaining to the average duration of residence for households in temporary accommodation.

Please provide this data for the maximum number of years permitted under the FOI Act, working backwards from today's date.

N/A

Internal Review Procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, then you have a right under Section 50 of the Act to request an internal review. All such requests must be sent to us within 8 weeks and must clearly state your reference number and your reason for your request for an internal review.

We will respond to your request for an internal review within 20 working days of receipt. Your request for an internal review should be sent by email to foi@lbbd.gov.uk quoting your FOI reference number.

Information Commissioners Office

Should you remain dissatisfied with the final outcome of the internal review then you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner (the "ICO") for an independent review. The ICO is the Government's Independent Body responsible for overseeing the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 1998 and The Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Please note the ICO will only review cases that have exhausted the council's internal review procedure. All correspondence to the ICO must quote the council's reference number and your reasons for your appeal. The ICO's contact details are as follows:

The Information Commissioners Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane, Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

More information can be found at the ICO's website at <http://www.ico.org.uk>

If you have any further enquiries about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us by emailing foi@lbbd.gov.uk

We trust you find the above to be satisfactory, but should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

The FOI Team