

**REQUEST**

1. Please state the number of households in council housing in the local authority area that were affected by the bedroom tax (having both been assessed as under-occupying, and falling outside exempt groups such as pensioners) as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 (or the earliest available date for the 2013/14 financial year)

2. Please state the most recent confirmed number of households in council housing in the local authority area that are affected by the bedroom tax (having both been assessed as under-occupying, and falling outside exempt groups such as pensioners). Please state the date to which the data is correct

3. Please state the number of households in “externally provided” social housing in the local authority area that were affected by the bedroom tax (having both been assessed as under-occupying, and falling outside exempt groups such as pensioners) as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 (or the earliest available date for the 2013/14 financial year)

4. Please state the most recent confirmed number of households in “externally provided” social housing in the local authority area that are affected by the bedroom tax (having both been assessed as under-occupying, and falling outside exempt groups such as pensioners). Please state the date to which the data is correct

“Externally provided” social housing is social housing that is not council housing – e.g. Housing Associations, Registered Social Landlords. ALMOs should be classed as council housing.

5. Please state the number of households in council housing in the local authority area that have been affected by the bedroom tax during the course of 2013/14, where the occupants are known to have downsized (or mutually transferred) and are consequently no longer affected by the bedroom tax. Please state the date to which the data is correct

6. Please state the number of households in “externally provided” social housing in the local authority area that have been affected by the bedroom tax during the course of 2013/14, where the occupants are known to have downsized (or mutually transferred) and are consequently no longer affected by the bedroom tax. Please state the date to which the data is correct

7. Please state the number of households in the local authority area that are currently affected by the bedroom tax that are currently on the council’s social housing waiting list (or any mutual transfer list) to move to smaller property

For questions 5 and 6, if the council does not have separate figures for council housing households and externally provided social housing households, please provide a unified overall figure. Questions 5 and 6 include households that have downsized by moving to smaller property outside the council area, if that data is known to the council. Please note that question 7 covers households in all council and social housing.

Households affected by the bedroom tax” excludes exempt groups such as pensioners.

8. What is the council's full-year budget for Discretionary Housing Payments (including in-year top-ups, for example from central government) for 2013/14?
9. How much has the council awarded in DHPs during 2013/14 as of 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014?
10. How much has the council awarded in DHPs during 2013/14 as of 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014 to households affected by the bedroom tax (where known)?
11. How many applications for DHPs has the council accepted during 2013/14, as of 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014?
12. How many applications for DHPs has the council rejected during 2013/14, as of 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014?

If data as of 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014 is not available for questions 8-11, please provide the most recent data available (ensuring that the date is the same for questions 8-9 and 10-11 respectively) and state the date to which the data is correct.

13. Please state the number of council housing properties of three bedrooms or more that were "void" for at least four weeks during 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 (year-to-date) respectively
14. Please state the total value of rent lost to the council due to council housing properties of three bedrooms or more being "void", each year for 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 (year-to-date) respectively

For the purposes of this request, "void" means property that is unlet for any reason except planned demolition. Question 13 asks for the number of properties that were void for at least four weeks each year (e.g 30 properties void in 2011/12, 40 in 2012/13, 10 in 2013/14) not during all three years (e.g five properties void for at least four weeks in 2011/12, 2012/13 \*and\* 2013/14). Please state the date to which 2013/14 year-to-date data is correct.

For questions 13 and 14, please provide the date to which the 2013/14 data is correct.

15. What is the council's estimated full-year total cost for administration of the bedroom tax (including assessments, DHP payments, appeals etc) in 2013/14? This is requesting any estimated figure the council has; there is no need for an exact figure

If the council does not hold and cannot access the requested data for a particular question in the format requested, it should respond to that particular question as "information not held" and fulfil the remainder of the request, rather than applying the section 12 exemption against the entire request.

If the council holds information in a similar but not exactly the same format to that requested, please provide that similar format (together with a brief explanation) under the "duty to assist".

The council may aggregate this request with any request I have submitted in the last three months regarding the bedroom tax for section 12 purposes. No other aggregation would be permissible under section 12.

## **RESPONSE**

1. Please state the number of households in council housing in the local authority area that were affected by the bedroom tax (having both been assessed as under-occupying, and falling outside exempt groups such as pensioners) as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 (or the earliest available date for the 2013/14 financial year).....234
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- “Externally provided” social housing is social housing that is not council housing – e.g. Housing Associations, Registered Social Landlords. ALMOs should be classed as council housing.
5. Please state the number of households in council housing in the local authority area that have been affected by the bedroom tax during the course of 2013/14, where the occupants are known to have downsized (or mutually transferred) and are consequently no longer affected by the bedroom tax. Please state the date to which the data is correct 32 as at 31/1/2014
  6. Please state the number of households in “externally provided” social housing in the local authority area that have been affected by the bedroom tax during the course of 2013/14, where the occupants are known to have downsized (or mutually transferred) and are consequently no longer affected by the bedroom tax. Please state the date to which the data is correct Only 3 have been moved from the housing register as at 31/1/2014. Housing associations are free to move their own tenants and this data would not be held by the local authority.
  7. Please state the number of households in the local authority area that are currently affected by the bedroom tax that are currently on the council’s social housing waiting list (or any mutual transfer list) to move to smaller property 66

For questions 5 and 6, if the council does not have separate figures for council housing households and externally provided social housing households, please provide a unified overall figure. Questions 5 and 6 include households that have downsized by moving to smaller property outside the council area, if that data is known to the council. Please note that question 7 covers households in all council and social housing.

“Households affected by the bedroom tax” excludes exempt groups such as pensioners.

As at 13 Feb 14

8. What is the council's full-year budget for Discretionary Housing Payments (including in-year top-ups, for example from central government) for 2013/14? £401,660.00
9. How much has the council awarded in DHPs during 2013/14 as of 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014? £302,446.37
10. How much has the council awarded in DHPs during 2013/14 as of 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014 to households affected by the bedroom tax (where known) £45,532
11. How many applications for DHPs has the council accepted during 2013/14, as of 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014? 906
12. How many applications for DHPs has the council rejected during 2013/14, as of 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014? 85

If data as of 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014 is not available for questions 8-11, please provide the most recent data available (ensuring that the date is the same for questions 8-9 and 10-11 respectively) and state the date to which the data is correct.

13<sup>th</sup> Feb 14

13. Please state the number of council housing properties of three bedrooms or more that were "void" for at least four weeks during 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 (year-to-date) respectively

1<sup>st</sup> April 2011- 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 – 22 properties

1<sup>st</sup> April 2012- 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 – 15 properties

1<sup>st</sup> April 2013-31<sup>st</sup> January 2014 – 30 properties

14. Please state the total value of rent lost to the council due to council housing properties of three bedrooms or more being "void", each year for 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 (year-to-date) respectively

1<sup>st</sup> April 2011-31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 - £11,675.99

1<sup>st</sup> April 2012- 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 - £9,811.78

1<sup>st</sup> April 2013-31<sup>st</sup> January 2014 - £27,758.00

15. Information not available.