

## LIFE OPPORTUNITIES – 88/13

### REQUEST AND RESPONSE

The following questions relate to applications for Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) for assistance with the impact of the April 2013 Housing Benefit changes for social rented sector tenants, during the current financial year.

1) Please could you provide a breakdown of DHP applications received, awarded, refused and still being processed by whether or not the applicant has stated that they, or a member of their household, has a disability or health condition, as follows:

Financial year 2013-14 This information is for the period 01.04.13 to 30.09.13 ( our next available period will be 01.04.13 to 31.12.13 collected January 2014)

Disabled	74
Non-disabled	434
All applicants	508
Total number of DHP applications received to date	508
Applicants awarded a DHP to date	388
Applicants refused a DHP to date	120
Applications still being processed	none

2) On average, how long does processing a DHP application take, from receiving the application to providing the final decision to the applicant? 45 minutes

3) What is the administrative financial cost to your council for processing each DHP application?

£7.50

4) What are the 3 most common reasons that your council is refusing a DHP?

1. Applicant has sufficient income to meet their liability.
2. The applicant is unwilling to engage with support networks, acknowledge problem, help themselves to meet ongoing liabilities etc.
3. Applicant knew they could/can not afford property before moving in, did not look at all options beforehand.

5) Do you include a person's Disability Living Allowance as part of their household income? We take every case on its own merits but we can take DLA as part of the household income

6) Do you plan to ask central Government for more DHP funding if your allocation runs out before the end of the financial year? NO