

## FOI 65/2016

### REQUEST

Please send responses to the following questions:

- How many people have been removed from your housing allocations list as a result of changes to qualification requirements following the Localism Act in 2012? Please provide a breakdown for each year since 2012
- What new qualification requirements for the housing allocations list has the council introduced since 2012?
- How many new applicants were refused access to the list due to new qualification requirements since 2012?
- What new criteria was used to refuse access to or remove these people?
- How many decisions to remove a person from the allocations list were reversed upon review since 2012?
- How many decisions to refuse a person access to the allocations list were reversed upon review since 2012?
- How many complaints has the council received for refusing a person access to the housing allocations list since 2012? How many of the decisions to refuse access were reviewed?

### RESPONSE

In response to this FOI request, I can advise as follows:

(The data given is up to 14/02/2016)

1. The Council adopted a new Housing Allocations Policy on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013 as a consequence of the changes made by the Localism Act and on this date, 163 applicants were removed from the housing register. None have been removed since as a consequence of the changes in the Localism Act.
2. As above, the new policy meant applicants had to reside in the district for 3 years before they could apply. Applicants also have to have a housing need at the time they apply. This rule does not apply to current or former members of the armed forces, local applicants who were placed in specialist accommodation outside the district, applicants accepted as homeless, applicants outside the district in social housing who meet the terms of the Right to Move Order and applicants assessed under Safer Accommodation Project in Essex.
3. Data is no longer available from June 2013 – December 2013.  
  
Between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 and 14<sup>th</sup> February 2016, 227 applicants have been refused access to the housing register because of the changes made to the policy in June 2013 and referred to in 2) above.
4. The criteria referred to in 2) above.
5. 1 decision was reversed upon review when the 163 applicants referred to in 1) above were removed from the housing register in June 2013.

6. Data is not available from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013-December 2013.

Since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014- 14<sup>th</sup> February 2016, there have been 23 requests or complaints to review a decision to refuse an applicant access to the housing register. Of this figure, 3 have been overturned upon review.