

FOI 369/2015

REQUEST AND RESPONSE

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I would like to receive information regarding to disabled facilities grants provided by the council or councils you cover. In particular I would like to request the following:

In total, how many applications for a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) were made to the council in each of the following years? 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15. – for clarification are you asking how many recommendations were received from Occupational Therapists or how many “valid applications” were received? Valid applications contain all information we need to actually approve the finance (the 6 months period in the legislation)while recommendations are simply what works are needed being provided by Essex CC which we then check and agree if “reasonable and practicable” and then our process begins? Based on your later questions I am presuming you are actually asking about the number of recommendations in this and the next question....

Recommendations please –

11/12 143

12/13 168

13/14 324

14/15 336

Of the total number of DFG applications received, how many applicants received a decision from the council within 6 months of their initial application, in each of the following years? 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15. – This will be for approvals being done within 6 months of receiving a valid application unless you wish to know how many recommendations received were deemed to be “Reasonable and Practicable” or not within 6 months (which is not the 6 months in the legislation)? As per the legislation please

11/12 98.7%

12/13 100%

13/14 100%

14/15 99%

What was the average wait time for approval, in each of the following years? 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15. We will answer from valid application date unless you wish for something different? Thanks

11/12 16 days

12/13 14 days

13/14 33 days

14/15 17 days

What was/is the waiting list for DFG grants to be considered for each of the following times? End of 2012/13, end of 2013/14 and now. We have been lucky enough not to have had a waiting list in the past – at this time due to issues with agents we are 3 months behind for initial “reasonable and practicable” visits but hope to catch up by end of October – there is not an official waiting list as we have sufficient funds this year and so work simply progresses through the system.

How many DFG applications were approved in each of the following years? 2011/12 - 154, 2012/13 - 104, 2013/14 – 166 and 2014/15 - 163.

Of the total number of DFG applications that were approved, how many resulted in completion of the works detailed in the application and payment of the grant within 12 months of approval in each of the following years? 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15. We can answer as to when the grant was completed (everything paid) but cannot answer for when the work is completed as this information is not gained anymore since Essex changed their benchmarking rules and we complete lots of grants with several work items – we also add in additional works to grants so this means grants may go on for long periods of time to enable extras to be completed and also the time frame will include where we are waiting for invoices etc. No worries

Number of completed approvals

2011/12 142 with 6 outside 12 months as above reasons.

2012/13 100 with 9 outside 12 months

2013/14 124 with 3 outside 12 months

2014/15 133 with 0 outside 12 months

Of those that were approved, what was the average wait time for completion of the works detailed in the application and payment of the grant, in each of the following years? 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15. As mentioned above this will be original approval to completion but may include time added for approving additional works. No worries

Average time from approval to completion

2011/12 123 days

2012/13 114 days

2013/14 143 days

2014/15 104 days

What was the average amount awarded in DFG for each of the following years? 2011/12 - £5951, 2012/13 - £6440, 2013/14 - £6810 and 2014/1 - £5165.