

Request

Costs I am seeking will include hire/rent of rooms and buildings for the provision of 'free' services (by Wigan Council or Third Parties) to Ukrainian immigrants or associated Third Parties, and the loss of revenue due to no cost or reduced cost provision of rooms and buildings for these 'free' services provided by Wigan Council directly to Ukrainian immigrants or associated Third Parties. Also provision of no cost or reduced cost transport provided by Wigan Council directly to Ukrainian immigrants or associated Third Parties.

Response

Wigan Council will support and assist any individual regardless of protected characteristics such as ethnicity, nationality, religion, and social beliefs. Our support is based on individual needs and extends to all our residents.

We do not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) relieves a public authority from the obligation to comply with a request for information where the estimated time required to locate, review and extract the information exceeds a certain threshold set out in Regulations.

The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/3244) set out the rules in relation to the cost limit (otherwise called the "appropriate limit"). These Regulations are published by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) and are viewable on their web site from this link: http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2004/uksi_20043244_en.pdf

The Regulations set out the cost limit for Government departments and for other public authorities. For local government, Regulation 3 states that the cost limit is £450 and Regulation 4(4) states that the prescribed hourly rate is £25. Regulation 4(4) further provides that where the local authority estimates the time taken to gather the information would exceed this limit (which based on the prescribed hourly rate, equates to 18 officer hours), it may refuse the request under section 12 of FoIA.

I am satisfied the cost limit applies to your request and will explain why this is the case.

To gather the information requested would involve obtaining the records from every Directorate and Service within the Council and its trusted partners. This could involve going into thousands of records individually which would far exceed the allotted time scale of 18 hours and far exceed the allotted expense of doing so.