

1. I would like to see all communication between national government and Wigan council about Kilhey court. I request this information for 2022 and 2023.
 2. Notification from government when the council first heard.
 3. Correspondence about this situation.
 4. Level of funding Wigan council is receiving for this accommodation.
1. The Council confirms it holds this information but is withholding disclosure under sections 36(b)(ii) and 36(2)(c) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which state that information to which this section applies is exempt information if, in the reasonable opinion of a qualified person, disclosure of the information under this Act (b) would, or would be likely to, inhibit ... (ii) the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation, or (c) would otherwise prejudice, or would be likely otherwise to prejudice, the effective conduct of public affairs. Council officials need to be able to make representations to government without expecting that such correspondence will be put into the public domain. Disclosure would inhibit that exchange of views and would prejudice the conduct of public affairs. The qualified person believes that the exemption is engaged and whilst the Council acknowledges the principle of transparency and accountability inherent in the FOI Act, it believes the public interest in upholding the ability of Council officials to have free and frank discussion with national government outweighs that principle.
 2. The Chief Executive's Office received official confirmation on 15th August 2023.
 3. The exemption engaged at question 1 applies equally to this question.
 4. The Home Office provides this detail at [Accommodation sites factsheet - April 2023 - Home Office in the media \(blog.gov.uk\)](#). Note the paragraph for existing dispersed accommodation and beds in hotels, the government will provide local authorities with a one off £750 payment for each asylum seeker who is in Home Office accommodation on the 1st April 2023 – up from £250 last year. The payment will be made during quarter 1 of 2023/24.

Please note that the payment is for each asylum seeker who is in Home Office accommodation on the 1st April 2023; Kilhey Court was not Home Office accommodation on that date.

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| 5. Risk assessment for people in the standish area close to Kilhey court | 5. This information is not held by the Council. |
| 6. Correspondence with Police about asylum reference Kilhey Court and/or Britannia hotel. | 6. The Council is neither confirming or denying if it holds this information. Section 36(3) of the FOI Act states that the duty to confirm or deny does not arise in relation to information to which this section applies (or would apply if held by the public authority) if, or to the extent that, in the reasonable opinion of a qualified person, [confirming that the information is held] would, or would be likely to, prejudice, or would be likely otherwise to prejudice, the effective conduct of public affairs. |

Up to date information regarding this matter can be found on the Council's website @ [Frequently Asked Questions – People seeking asylum and hotel use in Wigan Borough](#)