



18452

RESPONSE

Please treat the following as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am requesting the following data for the last five (5) years to date of this request, broken down by year where applicable:

Social Housing & Irregular Migrants / Asylum Seekers

1. The number of social housing properties used to house irregular migrants in the area.
2. The number of social housing properties used to house asylum seekers.

Private Rented Housing & Irregular Migrants / Asylum Seekers

3. The number of irregular migrants housed in private rented accommodation in the local authority area.
4. The number of asylum seekers housed in private rented accommodation in the local authority area.

Evictions Related to Serco Housing Contracts

5. The number of residents reported to the council as being evicted due to landlords transferring properties to Serco, broken down by the nationality of those evicted.
6. Regardless of who reported the case, the total number of people who approached the council regarding eviction where the property was later transferred to Serco.

Social Housing Stock

7. The total number of social housing properties in the area.
8. The number of social housing properties currently empty.

Housing Need & Homelessness

9. The total number of people currently seeking housing assistance from the council.
10. Of that total, how many are:
11. Facing eviction.
12. Currently homeless.

(Please provide a breakdown between those facing eviction and those who are homeless.)

Council Expenditure on Asylum Seekers & Refugees

13. Total amount of council funds (excluding central government grants) spent on housing and maintaining asylum seekers and refugees in the district. Please break this down into:
14. Housing costs.
15. Maintenance costs.
16. Total value of other benefits or items funded by the council for asylum seekers and refugees (e.g., food, TV licensing, activities).

1. 0 for all years
2. 0 for all years
3. We do not hold this information
4. We do not hold this information
5. We do not hold this information.
6. We do not hold this information.
- 7.

| Year | Number of properties |
|---------|----------------------|
| 2020/21 | 21,575 |
| 2021/22 | 21, 447 |
| 2022/23 | 21,372 |
| 2023/24 | 21, 334 |
| 2024/25 | 21,256 |

8. 393 going through the repair and allocations process. We do not have the information for previous years.

For Q9, Q10, Q11, Q12

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.

For Q9, 10, 11, 12 – we are unable to provide this data within the timeframes of this request. The current active homelessness caseload for the borough is over 1000 cases. This request would take at least 10 minutes per case, which would be over 166 hours.

Q13/14/15 - We do not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. Housing would only be funded by the LA where a statutory homeless duty is owed. To calculate costs this would require manual matching of data sets and a manual audit of hundreds of invoices. It is estimated that the time taken would be in the region 90 to 95 hours to complete. Costs in terms of temporary accommodation, also covers maintenance costs of accommodation and other associated costs with providing accommodation and as such we are unable to breakdown this information and the above would apply.

Q16 Wigan Council funding is not spent on providing items / benefits to Asylum Seekers – any expenditure is covered by Central Government Grants.

Reimbursement from Central Government

17. The total amount reimbursed to the council by central government for housing and supporting asylum seekers and refugees in the district.

17.

| Income | £m |
|---------------|-------------|
| 20/21 | 0.5 |
| 21/22 | 0.4 |
| 22/23 | 1.7 |
| 23/24 | 6.5 |
| 24/25 | 4.6 |
| Total | <u>13.7</u> |