

Request

Please send me an excel or csv copy of your HMO register including the following fields:

- 1. The address of the licensed HMO or house;
- 2. The number of rooms in the licensed HMO providing sleeping accommodation;
- 3. The maximum number of persons or households permitted to occupy the licensed HMO under the conditions of the licence;
- 4. The name of the licence holder; split across columns Title, First Name, Last Name
- 5. The address of the licence holder; split across columns Company name, Address 1, Address 2, Address 3, Address 4, City, Postcode
- 6. The name and address of the person managing the licensed HMO or house.

This request is made in line with the Information Commissioner's Office protocols and as provided for in The Housing Act 2004, section 232 which requires every local authority to maintain a public register of premises licensed as an HMO. (https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/200...)

And, The Licensing and Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation and Other Houses (Miscellaneous Provisions) (England) Regulations 2006, section 11 stipulates the data the Council need to hold in the public register they maintain. (https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006...)

Response

The HMO licence register is available below and details all HMOs with a mandatory licence, within the Borough:- <u>HMO/Wigan-HMO-Licence-Register.pdf</u>

We are unable to provide information relating to the licence holder and/or managing agent names and addresses. This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 38 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 38 (1)(b) states that information is exempt if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, endanger the safety of any individual. To disclose these details, could then put at risk the safety of vulnerable individuals by sharing their address.

As this is a qualified exemption, the Council is required to undertake a public interest test.

The Council acknowledges its obligations of transparency and accountability in all its undertakings. However, in this case, the safeguarding of vulnerable individuals would be put at risk by publishing these details and clearly outweighs the public interest in the transparency of information.