



REQUEST 19179

I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the freedom of information act, regarding numbers of, and applications for Houses of Multiple Occupation in your authority area.

I have attached an Excel Spreadsheet for ease of collating your responses.

Please can you provide the following information:

1. Total number of large HMOs present in the authority by calendar year – for the years 2020 to 2025 inclusive.
2. Total number of small HMOs by calendar year (same time period as above)
3. Average number of bedrooms in HMOs in the LA area in each year for the same period?
4. Applications for large HMO licenses by year - for the years for the years 2020 to 2025 inclusive.
5. Applications for small HMO licenses by year (same time period as above)
6. Approvals of large HMO licenses by year (same time period as above)
7. Approvals of small HMO licenses by year (same time period as above)

In addition, can the LA confirm whether there is an Article 4 planning amendment in place in any part of your council. If so, when did it come in force and what areas does it cover?

And finally, I'd like to offer the authority an invitation to provide any additional context they may find adds value to the data requested. I include this because HMOs are attracting significant public interest and in some areas is impacting on community tensions. For example, has the authority had one sizeable development that has skewed the figures, or has the area been deemed attractively affordable for investors wishing to offer a specific kind of accommodation, for example, for students or those leaving asylum accommodation? Has the number of HMOs in the authority recently attracted attention from constituents raising concerns?

RESPONSE

Please see attached Excel file as requested.

Between 2020 and 2023 data relating to HMO Licence applications and property sizes was not recorded.

There is a Borough-wide Article 4 direction which came into force on the 31st August 2025.