



REQUEST 19434

I would be very grateful if you could provide me with data on the use of Section 208 notices under the Housing Act 1996.

Please could you provide me with the number of Section 208 notices **received** by your council for each of the following years: 2025, 2024, 2023, and 2022.

And please could you specify for each of these notices the following details:

- Which local authority issued the Section 208 notice;
- The number of people to be relocated;
- The number of children (those aged under 18) to be relocated.

RESPONSE

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Overall number of 208s	21	79	128	102
Manchester	20	26	73	29
Salford	0	45	30	44
Bolton	0	7	21	12
Warrington	0	1	1	0
St Helens	0	0	3	7
Wyre	1	0	0	0
Chorley	0	0	0	9
Westmorland	0	0	0	1

We are unable to provide the details of the number of individuals within a household and the number of children as 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 gain this data we would have to manually check 330 notices, taking approx. 10 minutes per notices ($330 \times 10 = 3300$ min/55 hours) which exceeds the time frame of this request. We are also dependent on the other authority providing all of the information which is not always the case.