

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

**You asked:**

**Q1 – Residents affected by last month's changes to Housing Benefit rules in your local authority area.**

**1a. How many residents have received a reduction in Housing Benefit as a result of the new "under occupancy" rules?**

3,858

**1b. How many of those residents have had benefit payments reduced for a single spare room?**

3,044

**1c. How many of those residents have had payments reduced for two or more spare rooms?**

814

**Q2 – Requests to move to smaller properties as a result of Housing Benefit changes.**

**2a. How many residents who lost Housing Benefit have asked to move to a smaller property?**

**2b. How many of those residents have been offered a smaller property?**

**2c. How many of those residents are on the waiting list for a smaller property?**

We do not record information about an applicant's income/HB details when s/he applies to go onto the Council's Housing Register. Hence, we cannot make an assumption that those applying to downsize have lost Housing Benefit. People may choose to downsize through choice. This includes OAPs not affected by Bedroom tax. Therefore, this part of the letter acts as a refusal notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because, in accordance with section 1.1 of the Act, this information is not held by Leicester City Council.

**Q3 – Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP).**

**3a. How much money does your authority have for DHP this financial year?**

£813,252

**3b. How many residents have requested DHP support, after reductions in their Housing Benefit?**

327 claims in April 2013 and a further 100 in May 2013. 427 in total as at 17th May 2013

### **3c. How many of those residents have received DHP?**

100 have been awarded a DHP, we have made a decision on approximately 130 requests

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If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

**Information Governance Manager**  
**Information and Support**  
**Leicester City Council**  
**FREEPOST (LE985/33)**  
**New Walk Centre**  
**LEICESTER LE1 6ZG**  
e-mail: [info.requests@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:info.requests@leicester.gov.uk)

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion. You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

**Information Commissioner's Office**  
**Wycliffe House**  
**Water Lane**  
**Wilmslow SK9 5AF**  
**Telephone: 01625 545 700**  
[www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider appeals or complaints until the internal appeals and complaints processes of the public authority which is answering the request have been exhausted. You are therefore advised to complain or appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.