

## **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:**

**1. Please can you tell us how many applications for Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) your authority received for both 2011/2012 and 2012/2013? If you are able to break how many were successful (i.e. the applicant received a DHP), that would assist. It would also assist if you could let us know the average amount and duration of awards in each financial year.**

2011/2012 year 597 DHPs received  
252 cases where awards were made  
Average award was £365.81

2012/2013 year 433 DHPs received  
202 cases where awards were made  
Average award was £789.04

**2. If you have this information available, please can you provide the same information for the current financial year so far.**

2013/2014 year (to date) 940 cases received  
237 cases where awards have been made  
Average award is £447.09.

**3. Is your authority reviewing, or intending to review, your housing allocation policy in relation to any rules disqualifying or reducing the priority of tenants or former tenants who have outstanding rent arrears due to the new social sector size criteria rules (also known as the bedroom tax) and also the benefit cap and LHA maximum rent rules?**

The Council has recently reviewed its Housing Allocations Policy in relation to social tenants who have been adversely affected by the bedroom tax and have accrued rent arrears. These arrears will now be set aside for the purposes of transferring to smaller size accommodation in accordance with the new social sector size criteria rules.

**4. Do your authority's housing benefit decision letters mention the availability of DHPs?**

Our notification letters do not specifically mention availability of DHP but many of our other letters do inform customers about this.

**5. How does your authority publicise the availability of DHPs to potentially eligible applicants?**

Officers within the Service encourage those customers who may be entitled to DHP apply. We also liaise with the major landlords, help agencies in the City and the Council's Housing Options Team to encourage their tenants/client groups to apply. It is publicised on our website and we also mention DHPs at all of our stakeholder events regarding the Welfare Reforms.

**6. Has your authority "topped up" DHP funding received from central government with any additional funds in 2011/12 or 2012/13 (and if so, by how much); does your authority intend to do so in the current financial year?**

Leicester City Council has not topped-up the DHP fund with additional funding.

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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.