

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. Could the council consider a tenant's eviction due to arrears where s/he is affected by the bedroom tax (be it council housing or a registered social landlord) to be evidence that the tenant made him/herself intentionally homeless?

Any eviction carried out is based on the individual circumstances of the case. If the individual subsequently makes a homeless application, it is then up to the Housing Options Team to make relevant enquires to determine the facts that led to the individual losing their home. The homeless decision is based on all the relevant facts as per the homeless legislation and DCLG's Code Of Guidance. The Council does not operate blanket policies.

2. Please provide any correspondence or information received by the council from registered social landlords since 1st April 2013 (or collected independently by the council) regarding the impact of the bedroom tax on rent arrears among tenants of any registered social landlord(s). Any such correspondence would probably have been sent to the council's Revenue and Benefits department, or to the council's Housing department. This excludes information pertaining to or identifying individual tenants/households.

We are not aware of any correspondence received from the RSL's regarding the impact of the bedroom tax on arrears. With regard to information, we hold no specific information from the RSL's in relation to the impact of bedroom tax on arrears.

3. Please state the most recent confirmed number of households in council housing in the local authority area that are affected by the 'bedroom tax' (having both been assessed as under-occupying, and falling outside exempt groups such as pensioners). Please state the date to which the data is correct.

As of 20/06/13 the total number of households affected by the rule is 2,448. 1,922 by one room and 526 by 2 or more rooms.

4. Please state the number of households in council housing in the local authority area that are affected by the 'bedroom tax' that are in arrears on their rent. Please provide the most recent data available and state the date to which the data is correct.

As at the 30/06/13 June, 1,695 tenants affected by the bedroom tax owed 1p or more on their account.

5. Please detail the number of households in council housing in

the local authority area that are affected by the 'bedroom tax' that are in arrears on their rent by respectively: (a) £50; (b) £100; (c) £500. Please provide the most recent data available and state the date to which the data is correct.

Of the above, 465 owed £50 or less; 321 owed from £50 to £100; 820 owed from £100 to £500 and 89 more than £500.

6. Please state the number of households in council housing in the local authority area that are affected by the 'bedroom tax' against which the council has commenced eviction proceedings (a) between 1st April 2013 and 30th April 2013; (b) since 1st May 2013, due to unpaid (or late-paid) rent. If the date breakdown in (a) and (b) is not available, please just provide data since 1st April 2013.

- (a) 10 Notices were served on affected tenants during April 2013
- (b) 22 Notices have been served from May to date

7. Does the council have a policy not to evict tenants (including as a 'last resort') who fall into arrears due to the bedroom tax?

There is no policy not to evict bedroom tax cases. Eviction is always a last resort, after all other efforts to sustain the tenancy have failed.

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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

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

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.