

Dear FOI Officer,

I am writing to you on behalf of the National Housing Federation. We represent 1,200 not-for-profit housing associations in England and campaign for better housing and neighbourhoods.

We are interested in understanding the experiences of tenants when applying and receiving the Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP). We have already sent you a request under the Freedom of Information Act in August which covered the time period April 1st till June 30th.

This is our second DHP Freedom of Information Act request and refers to DHP cases and payments between April 1st and September 30th 2013.

Questions:

Q1: How many applications for DHP have you received/approved/declined from April 1st 2012 to Sept 30th 2012 and from April 1st 2013 to September 30th 2013?

Lion Court
25 Procter Street
London WC1V 6NY

Tel: 020 7067 1010
Fax: 020 7067 1011

Email: info@housing.org.uk
Website: www.housing.org.uk

	Applications received	Applications approved	Applications declined	Applications awaiting approval
April 1 st to Sept 30 th 2012	332	128	184	0
April 1 st to Sept 30 th 2013	1,636	718	213	705

Q2: Of the applications you received from April 1st 2013 to September 30th 2013 how many came from...

	Applications received	Applications approved	Applications declined	Applications awaiting approval
Households containing someone with a disability?	521	329	36	156
Households affected by the size criteria?	7237	360	69	298
Households affected by the size criteria AND containing someone with a disability?	268	167	14	87
Households affected by the benefit cap?	37	7	0	30

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London WC1V 6NY

A company with limited liability
Registered in England No. 302132

Q3: What is the most common reason for declining an application for DHP? (please pick 1)

- Households judged to have enough income to cover their rent if they cut back on other expenditure
- Households judged to be able to meet rent without cutting back on other expenditure
- DHP pot needs to be rationed and other households were judged more of a priority
- other: [Not in a vulnerable category based on local policy](#)

Q4: How much of the DHP government allocation have you distributed from April 1st 2013 to September 30th 2013?

Total amount <u>spent</u> on Sept. 30 th 2013	£168,885.33
Total amount <u>allocated</u> for current financial year ¹	£53,390.96
Total amount <u>remaining</u> for current financial year	£641,047.76
<u>Total</u> amount DHP government allocation for the current financial year	£863,324.05

Q5: Of your DHP allocation disbursed between April 1st 2013 and September 30th 2013, how much did you spend on...

People housed by a housing association	£56,362.16
People housed by a local authority	£104,355.93
People housed within the private rented sector	£61,558.20
Other	N/A

* Please make sure the numbers add up to the total amount spent in question 4

Q6: Of your DHP allocation distributed between April 1st 2013 and September 30th 2013, how much did you spend on people affected by the size criteria?

People affected by the size criteria	£12,506.73
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¹ Amount already promised/ set aside but not spent to date

There is a clear public interest for disclosure of this information and it will help us to

- Further the understanding of and participation in the public debate of issues of the day, and will allow a more informed debate of issues under consideration by public bodies.
- Promote accountability and transparency by public authorities for decisions taken by them and in the spending of public money.
- Allow individuals to understand decisions made by public authorities affecting their lives and, in some cases, assisting individuals in challenging those decisions.
- Bring to light information affecting welfare reforms and public spending.
- Promote accountability and transparency in relation to the actual operation of the Freedom of Information Act, illustrate how the organisation has met its new legal responsibilities, shed light on the reasoned explanations that the organisation has used when disclosing or not disclosing information, and highlight what information has been released under the Act, which in itself will assist the public scrutiny of the work and administration of the organisation

Further to Section 16 of the Act (duty to provide advice and assistance), if you have any queries relating to this request, I would be grateful if you could contact me at @housing.org.uk

It would be much appreciated if you send the information requested to @housing.org.uk

Thank you in advance for your assistance and I look forward to hearing from you,

Kind regards

National Housing Federation



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The National Housing Federation is the voice of affordable housing in England. We believe that everyone should have the home they need at a price they can afford. That's why we represent the work of housing associations and campaign for better housing.

Our members provide two and a half million homes for more than five million people. And each year they invest in a diverse range of neighbourhood projects that help create strong, vibrant communities.