

## **Freedom of Information Act 2000 – under occupancy**

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

### **You asked:**

- 1. How much money has your council applied for in order to top up the Discretionary Housing Payment fund from:  
a) the Department of Communities and Local Government for permission to transfer money from your Housing Revenue Account to the DHP fund and,**

The council has not applied for permission to transfer money from the Housing Revenue Account to the DHP Fund.

- b) the Department for Work and Pensions for any of the additional DHP funds set out in the Department's circular HB U4/2013,30 July 2013: i) as part of the £5 million for isolated rural areas, ii) as part of the £20 million available for all LAs to submit bids for,**

The council has not applied for any monies from the £5m or £20m available.

The council is considering whether or not to submit a bid. The submission date has been extended to 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014.

**and if so, how much have you been granted?**

N/A

- 2. How:  
a) many new staff has your council hired, or diverted from other activities  
b) much extra funding have you allocated to deal with housing benefit issues as a result of the under occupancy (or if it is too difficult to isolate, as a result of all welfare reform in 2013 compared to 2012) such as:**

- i) advice services,**

Nil

- ii) arrears collection,**

2 extra full time officers have been recruited on 12 month temporary contracts at a cost of £58,000.

- iii) DHP processing,**

3 extra full time officers to process DHP at a cost of £130,000 per annum

**iv) House swap facilitation**

Nil

**v) Any other – please give details.**

Nil

**3. How many disabled tenants living in adapted properties in your area:**

**a) are affected by the under occupancy policy,**

26 adapted properties affected.

**b) have expressed a desire to move, and**

This information is not held. 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 the council.

**c) how many have moved at what cost?**

One has moved back with family/friends. There is no immediate cost to Leicester City Council but average costs of £4,000 will arise for void properties.

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Not all the information that is supplied which is covered by copyright will be the Council's copyright, for example it may be the copyright of a government department or another Council. You should seek either the Council's consent or their consent as appropriate. The Council is willing to advise you of any such potential issues on request. In order to make a request to re-use the information please contact the Information Governance Manager using the details below.

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.