

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – bedroom tax data

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

You asked:

1. Please state the number of households in council housing in the local authority area that were affected by the bedroom tax (having both been assessed as under-occupying, and falling outside exempt groups such as pensioners) as of 1st April 2013 (or the earliest available date for the 2013/14 financial year)

2,700

2. 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

2,081

3. Please state the number of households in “externally provided” social housing in the local authority area that were affected by the bedroom tax (having both been assessed as under-occupying, and falling outside exempt groups such as pensioners) as of 1st April 2013 (or the earliest available date for the 2013/14 financial year)

1,243

4. Please state the most recent confirmed number of households in “externally provided” social 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

“Externally provided” social housing is social housing that is not council housing – e.g. Housing Associations, Registered Social Landlords. ALMOs should be classed as council housing.

927

5. Please state the number of households in council housing in the local authority area that have been affected by the bedroom tax during the course of 2013/14, where the occupants are known to have downsized (or mutually transferred) and are consequently no longer affected by the bedroom tax. Please state the date to which the data is correct

116 are known to have downsized by the 31st December, by either Mutual Exchange (57) or Transfer (59).

6. Please state the number of households in “externally provided” social housing in the local authority area that have been affected by the bedroom tax during the course of 2013/14, where the occupants are known to have downsized (or mutually transferred) and are consequently no longer affected by the bedroom tax. Please state the date to which the data is correct

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 Leicester City Council.

7. Please state the number of households in the local authority area that are currently affected by the bedroom tax that are currently on the council’s social housing waiting list (or any mutual transfer list) to move to smaller property

For questions 5 and 6, if the council does not have separate figures for council housing households and externally provided social housing households, please provide a unified overall figure. Questions 5 and 6 include households that have downsized by moving to smaller property outside the council area, if that data is known to the council. Please note that question 7 covers households in all council and social housing.

“Households affected by the bedroom tax” excludes exempt groups such as pensioners.

As at 29/9/13, there were 471 under-occupied social housing tenants requesting smaller accommodation. It is not possible to split these into Council and Housing Association.

8. What is the council’s full-year budget for Discretionary Housing Payments (including in-year top-ups, for example from central government) for 2013/14?

£863,324.05

9. How much has the council awarded in DHPs during 2013/14 as of 12th February 2014?

Paid - £680,885.70

Committed - £46,432.22

10. How much has the council awarded in DHPs during 2013/14 as of 12th February 2014 to households affected by the bedroom tax (where known)?

Paid - £367,508.44

Committed - £20,829.21

11. How many applications for DHPs has the council accepted during 2013/14, as of 12th February 2014?

1,955

12. How many applications for DHPs has the council rejected during 2013/14, as of 12th February 2014?

If data as of 12th February 2014 is not available for questions 8-11, please provide the most recent data available (ensuring that the date is the same for questions 8-9 and 10-11 respectively) and state the date to which the data is correct.

725

13. Please state the number of council housing properties of three bedrooms or more that were “void” for at least four weeks during 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 (year-to-date) respectively

Number of Properties (3+ bedrooms) void for 4 weeks or more:

2011-12:	264
2012-13:	222
2013-14 YTD:	292

For properties which were void across two or more years (e.g. void period starting in 2011-12 and ending in 2012-13, we have counted the data against the latter year).

14. Please state the total value of rent lost to the council due to council housing properties of three bedrooms or more being “void”, each year for 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 (year-to-date) respectively

For the purposes of this request, “void” means property that is unlet for any reason except planned demolition. Question 13 asks for the number of properties that were void for at least four weeks each year (e.g 30 properties void in 2011/12, 40 in 2012/13, 10 in 2013/14) not during all three years (e.g five properties void for at least four weeks in 2011/12, 2012/13 *and* 2013/14). Please state the date to which 2013/14 year-to-date data is correct.

For questions 13 and 14, please provide the date to which the 2013/14 data is correct.

Total Rent Loss due to council properties (3+ bedrooms) being void:

2011-12:	£186,354.58
2012-13:	£185,526.52
2013-14 YTD:	£241,257.59

For properties which were void across two or more years (as previous example) we have applied a pro-rata approach based on the number of days void in each of the years.

- We have excluded any new development homes on the basis of there being no previous tenancy end dates.
- We have excluded a small number of cases where tenants have served notice to quit before the end of this year.

15. What is the council's estimated full-year total cost for administration of the bedroom tax (including assessments, DHP payments, appeals etc) in 2013/14? This is requesting any estimated figure the council has; there is no need for an exact figure

£177,000

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

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Information and Support
Leicester City Council
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