

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – impact on lettings following welfare reform

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

You asked:

I am undertaking an Msc in Housing Studies with De Montfort University and presently carrying out research for my dissertation, which has a working title of 'The changing nature of demand for social housing following Welfare Reform'.

I would be most grateful if you could take the time to provide me the following information, if possible. In providing this information you are giving your consent for it to be used within my dissertation; responses will be used only for academic research purposes.

1. Average number of days from when a tenancy is terminated to when a new tenancy begins at March 2012, March 2013 and March 2014

The figures provided are the average void time for the financial year:

- 2011/12 – 55.9 days
- 2012/13 – 44.8 days
- 2013/14 – 82.8 days

There has been an increase in void days in 2013/14 and this can mainly be attributed to the fact that we released a number of properties which had been held for temporary use during an ongoing refurbishment project.

2. Rent loss on voids at March 2012, March 2013 and March 2014

2011-12	£3,399,360.53
2012-13	£3,580,084.89
2013-14	£3,922,583.60

3. Number of 'always available' properties at March 2012, March 2013 and March 2014 and breakdown of property type and size

We did not have any 'always available' properties as at March 2012, March 2013 and March 2014.

4. Main reason customers state they are seeking rehousing as at March 2012, March 2013 and March 2014

Overcrowding in each of the years

5. Number on your housing register at March 2012, March 2013 and March 2014

31/03/2012	9,223
31/03/2013	9,980
31/03/2014	11,077

6. If you are experiencing difficulties letting properties following welfare reforms, what techniques have you used to encourage demand and have they proved successful?

We have not experienced any difficulties in letting properties since the implementation of welfare reforms. Demand for housing remains high.

The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use, or for journalistic purposes. If the information is a dataset (which does not relate to the environment), you may also use the information for commercial re-use under an [Open Government Licence](#).

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

Information Governance Manager

Information and Support

Leicester City Council

Bosworth House

9 – 15 Princess Road West

LEICESTER LE1 6TH

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 may also seek independent advice from 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 requests until the internal appeals process of the Council has been exhausted. You are therefore advised to appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.