

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)

a) What is the number of, and value of, all housing properties currently held by the local authority, assessed at current market values (e.g. using the Beacon value method)?

As at 31st March 2012, Leicester City Council's own social housing stock comprised 22,286 dwellings with a market value of £1,782,390,500.

b) How was this data arrived at?

We rely on independent valuers to provide us with a current valuation of the stock (using the Beacon approach) held at the beginning of the year. This is then adjusted by means of a desktop exercise to reflect stock changes during the course of the year.

2)

For question 2, if a) is answered in full then b) and c) are not needed. If b) is answered in full then c) is not needed.

a) Can you provide numbers for the average market value of your social housing stock by decile (top 10%, next 10%, next 10% etc, from most expensive to least expensive) and number of bedrooms? (Please see the attached spreadsheet which should make clear what I am requesting).

b) If this is not possible, have you undertaken any assessment of the value or "distribution by value" of your housing stock since 2008? By "distribution by value" I mean, for example, how many properties are worth <£50,000, <£100,000, >£150,000 and so on. If so, would it be possible to obtain a copy of this electronically, either as a Word document or PDF?

c) If this is not possible, could you provide any published data that would allow an assessment to be made of the value or "distribution by value" of your social housing stock. The Government's 'target rent policy' requires a valuation of all social properties to take place in order to set the social rent of each individual property. The valuation is based on 1999 data. If available, this 1999 data is preferable to none at all.

The purpose of these questions is to be able to fill in the columns of the spreadsheet attached.

Analysis of the average value of the stock by decile and number of bedrooms is shown in the attached spreadsheet.

3)

The term poverty refers to the standard government measure of 60% of median income. For question 3, if a) is answered then b) is not necessary.

a) What proportion of children living in social housing in your area are in child poverty?

The Council does not hold this information. 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.

b) What proportion of children in your local authority are living in child poverty?

33% of children in Leicester City currently live in poverty, 25,905 children (based on data from HMRC).

The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use. Please be aware that any commercial or other use, for example publication, sale, or redistribution may be a breach of copyright under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 as amended unless you obtain the copyright holder's prior permission.

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: FOIA@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

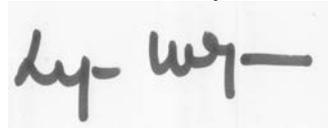
Wilmslow SK9 5AF

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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynn Wyeth', is written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Lynn Wyeth

Information Governance Manager