

Nicola Hesketh
Project and Information Coordinator

Our Ref: FOI5541/NH/02
Please ask for: Nicola Hesketh
Direct dial: 01827 709266 / 01827 709587
E-mail: FOImailbox@tamworth.gov.uk

[Name Redacted]
Inside Housing
3rd Floor, 4 Harbour Exchange Square
London
E14 9GE

4th December 2018

Dear [Name Redacted]

Freedom of Information – Request for Information

With regards to your recent enquiry for information held by the Authority under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, please find the information you requested below with reference in the box to your original enquiry for clarity where multiple answers are required.

Details of Your Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), I request the following information:

Please could you provide me with the following information:

- 1. The number of households who presented themselves to the council as homeless while claiming Universal Credit in*
 - a.2015*
 - b.2016*
 - c.2017*
 - d.2018*
- 2. If known, how many of the people in the answer to 1) were previously*
 - i. housing association tenants*
 - ii. private tenants*
 - iii. local authority tenants*
- 3. If the council has housing stock, how many of its tenants evicted since November 2015 were in receipt of Universal Credit at the time they were evicted*
- 4. If the council has housing stock, how many of its tenants are claiming Universal Credit as of 06/11/18*
- 5. How many of the claimants in the answer to 4) are currently subject to UC debt deductions*
- 6. How many of the claimants in the answer to 4) are known to be in rent arrears*
- 7. If known, the number of households who are not local authority tenants who have been evicted since November 2015 while claiming Universal Credit by*
 - i. housing associations*
 - ii. private landlords*
- 8. The amount of Discretionary Housing Payment provided for working age Universal Credit claimants as a proportion of the council's total DHP spending in*
 - i. 2015/16*
 - ii. 2016/17*
 - iii. 2017/18*
 - iv. 2018/19*

If possible, I would like this information to be supplied electronically.

The response to your request as follows:

This email services as our refusal notice under section 17 of the FOI Act for information exempt under Section 12 of the FOI Act

Q1 & Q2

Between 01.01.2015 and 3.04.2018 we have recorded 1980 homeless records, these are the total number that presented (this is not representative of total homeless applications however).

To establish if the information you have requested within the scope of your request is held and then provide this information to you, we estimate this to exceed 495 hours of work, to include a manual trawl within electronic and paper data and therefore refuse this part of your request under Section 12 of the FOIA Act.

Under Section 16 of the FOI Act the authority has a duty to offer advice and assistance where reasonably possible. The authority has no statutory requirement to record this information in order to publish P1E's for the years 2015 – 2018, however since April 2018 we can confirm the following:

24 applicants have been in receipt of UC towards housing costs- again we should draw the distinction that the question we have derived this from is have UC towards housing costs, and applicants could also have universal credit without having the housing element.

Of the 24 it included the following:

- i. housing association tenants - 5*
- ii. private tenants- 12*
- iii. local authority tenants- 1*

Q3 – Fewer than 5

Q4 – 546

Q6 – 439

Q5 – Information not held by the local authority – please direct this part of your request to DWP at: freedom-of-information-request@dpw.gsi.gov.uk

Q6 – 439

Q7 – No information held

Q8 - Information not held, While we award DHPs to UC claimants – our system doesn't record (and has no reason to as the DWP themselves do not require this information) the total amount paid out to UC claimants as opposed to HB claimants.

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For information where the copyright is owned by another person or organisation you must apply to the copyright owner to obtain their permission.

This council also believes in transparency of information, this includes requests made under the Freedom of Information Act and the Environmental Information Regulations and we reserve the right to publish these requests in our Disclosure Log along with the response, the requestors name

and/or company where the information is requested on a regular basis. Care shall be taken not to publish your email address or physical address where it is considered personal information as defined under the General Data Protection Regulation 2018.

Project and Information Coordinator,
Tamworth Borough Council,
Marmion House,
Lichfield Street,
Tamworth,
B79 7BZ

Details of Tamworth Borough Council's internal review and complaints procedure are attached, in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Yours Sincerely

Nicola Hesketh
Project and Information Coordinator