

Request 10824 - Exempt accommodation

I am interested in understanding more about how your local authority manages its provision of “Exempt Accommodation”.

Exempt Accommodation in these questions is defined in legislation, namely accommodation which provides Housing Benefit claimants with exemption from the main HB rent restriction schemes that have been introduced from January 1996 ie:

- the local reference rent rules; and
- the local housing allowance rules.

The legal definition of ‘Exempt Accommodation’ can be found in paragraph 4(10) of Schedule 3 to the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (Consequential Provisions) Regulations 2006 specifically:

Accommodation which is provided by a non-metropolitan county council in England within the meaning of section 1 of the Local Government Act 1972, a Housing Association, a registered charity or voluntary organisation where that body or a person acting on its behalf also provides the claimant with care, support or supervision.

For ease, a Freedom of information was sent to you last year with the same questions as 1) and 2) but covering the years 18/19, 19/20 and 20/21. See: https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/user/victoria_mcdermott

If you responded to the above FOI last year, could you provide me with comparable data for this year.

1) Please complete the following questions below about the cost of exempt provision in your local authority in 2021/22.

- A) How much did you spend on the provision of “exempt accommodation”?
- B) How many HB claims did you receive under the exempt rules?

2) Please complete the following questions below about the providers of exempt accommodation in your local authority for each of the following years: 2021/22

a) Total number of providers who received exempt HB funding

Of which were:

- i) Registered Providers (registered with the Regulator of Social Housing).
- ii) Registered Charities (Organisations registered with Charity Commission but not with Regulator for Social Housing)
- iii) Community Interest Companies (registered as a CIC on the Companies House register, but not registered with the Regulator of Social Housing or the Charity

Commission).

iv) Local Authority (including those where the Authority is also registered with the Regulator of Social Housing).

v) Other

b) Total number of units provided that received exempt HB funding for each of the following years: 2021/22

i) Registered Providers (registered with the Regulator of Social Housing).

ii) Registered Charities (Organisations registered with Charity Commission but not with Regulator for Social Housing)

iii) Community Interest Companies (registered as a CIC on the Companies House register, but not registered with the Regulator of Social Housing or the Charity Commission).

iv) Local Authority (including those where the Authority is also registered with the Regulator of Social Housing).

v) Other

3a) Could you provide a list of all providers that have provided exempt accommodation and, if possible, the number of claims they are/were responsible for? Could you please provide this data for the years 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22

4) a) Please can you provide links to (or copies of) any policy/procedure documents or guides the council has produced regarding exempt accommodation?

b) Please could you confirm if you have a dedicated team looking into exempt accommodation or exempt accommodation claims? If so, how many people in this team?

Response

Thank you for your request for information above, which we have dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I hope the following will answer your query:

1) Please complete the following questions below about the cost of exempt provision in your local authority in 2021/22.

A) How much did you spend on the provision of "exempt accommodation"?
Approximately £1,696,724.60

B) How many HB claims did you receive under the exempt rules?

As of 31.03.2022, 181 claims out of 6343 were exempt accommodation

2) Please complete the following questions below about the providers of exempt accommodation in your local authority for each of the following years: 2021/22

a) Total number of providers who received exempt HB funding Of which were:

- i) Registered Providers (registered with the Regulator of Social Housing).
- ii) Registered Charities (Organisations registered with Charity Commission but not with Regulator for Social Housing)
- iii) Community Interest Companies (registered as a CIC on the Companies House register, but not registered with the Regulator of Social Housing or the Charity Commission).
- iv) Local Authority (including those where the Authority is also registered with the Regulator of Social Housing).
- v) Other

It is not possible to provide this data because our system does not record whether a provider is a Registered Charity or a Community Interest Company.

b) Total number of units provided that received exempt HB funding for each of the following years: 2021/22

- i) Registered Providers (registered with the Regulator of Social Housing).
- ii) Registered Charities (Organisations registered with Charity Commission but not with Regulator for Social Housing)
- iii) Community Interest Companies (registered as a CIC on the Companies House register, but not registered with the Regulator of Social Housing or the Charity Commission).
- iv) Local Authority (including those where the Authority is also registered with the Regulator of Social Housing).
- v) Other

It is not possible to provide this data because our system does not record whether a provider is a Registered Charity or a Community Interest Company.

3a) Could you provide a list of all providers that have provided exempt accommodation and, if possible, the number of claims they are/were responsible for? Could you please provide this data for the years 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22

At period ending 31.03.22 providers being paid Housing Benefit for claimants living in Exempt Accommodation:

LANDLORD	LIVE CLAIMS AS AT 31.03.22
BPHA	2
Clarion Housing Group	7
Emmaus	38
Hope into Action	1
Hundred Houses	4
Ling Trust Ltd	1
Metropolitan	16
Papworth Trust	38

Sanctuary	23
Suffolk Mind	9
Cambridge Housing Society	4
Cambridge Pringle Group	11
Edmund Trust	20

4) a) Please can you provide links to (or copies of) any policy/procedure documents or guides the council has produced regarding exempt accommodation?

We do not have any formal produced guides by our department.

b) Please could you confirm if you have a dedicated team looking into exempt accommodation or exempt accommodation claims? If so, how many people in this team?

There is no dedicated team, it falls within the remit of standard work and is dealt with by all assessors.

We aim to provide a high-quality service to you and hope that you are satisfied with this response. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.