

From: Foi Enquiries

Sent: 30 September 2019 08:56

Subject: FOI-19-1035 - Unauthorised Holiday Lets - FOLLOW UP QUERY

Thank you for your follow up query to this request. Our response is as follows:

Thank you for your response. What information might the council be able to provide in relation to this request (e.g. could you do the most recent year etc.)?

Are there other ways of looking for the information. Are there ways the council can access information about investigations (particularly ongoing ones) without having to search through all the files to find them (either directly through the system or by means of records of which case files are relevant to investigations) (it seems like there should be ways of doing this, otherwise conducting such investigations would be impossible as just finding the relevant file would take hours and hours). Where warning letters have been issued or other action has been taken, is there a record of such actions separate from the record in the file? The council has the information that it has issued no penalties but it apparently cannot easily identify the investigations it has carried out and which tenants have been investigated - this does suggest that the council holds records of investigations that have been completed and the outcome outside of tenant files so this may be a possible route to providing the information requested.

We hold our housing records on a digital system and if we have created specific actions and paths we can search for this information. Holiday Lets is not created as specific action or path, therefore if we have issued letters or have notes against this it would be in the tenancy record and the only way to search this is manually. Penalty action would have had Housing involve legal or trading standards and they could check their records and no penalties have been issued.

From: Foi Enquiries

Sent: 27 August 2019 12:54

Subject: FOI-19-1035 - Unauthorised Holiday Lets

Thank you for your information request of 30 July 2019. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has completed the necessary search for the information requested. Our response is now detailed below.

Please provide this information broken down by financial year for the past three years (i.e. 2016/17, 2017/18, and 2018/19).

- **the number of council property tenants who have been investigated for unauthorised short-term/holiday lets (e.g. Airbnb)**

This information is not held centrally. We would need to check through 21,004 records to extract it.

ACC is unable to provide you with information on the number of council property tenants who have been investigated for unauthorised short-term/holiday lets as the cost of providing it has been calculated as being in excess of the statutory maximum (£600). To explain this, it would involve an ACC Officer 21,004 tenant records to identify the tenants that have been

investigated. This has been calculated at 3 minutes per record, which equates to 21,004 x 3minutes = 1,050.2HOURS, at the cost of £15,753 in total.

In order to comply with its obligations under the terms of Section 16 of the FOISA, ACC hereby give notice that we are refusing your request under the terms of Section 12 - Excessive Cost of Compliance - of the FOISA.

ACC would be happy to discuss ways in which you may refine your request, so we can provide some information of interest to you within the maximum cost limits. For example, by [reducing the time period you are interested in etc]. Please do contact the Access to Information team, who will be happy to advise you, if this is something you would like to pursue.

- **the number of council property tenants that have received warnings about unauthorised short-term/holiday lets (e.g. Airbnb)**

This information is not held centrally. We would need to check through 21,004 records to extract it.

ACC is unable to provide you with information on the number of council property tenants that have received warnings about unauthorised short-term/holiday lets as the cost of providing it has been calculated as being in excess of the statutory maximum (£600). To explain this, it would involve an ACC Officer 21,004 tenant records to identify the tenants that have received warnings. This has been calculated at 3 minutes per record, which equates to 21,004 x 3minutes = 1,050.2HOURS, at the cost of £15,753 in total.

In order to comply with its obligations under the terms of Section 16 of the FOISA, ACC hereby give notice that we are refusing your request under the terms of Section 12 - Excessive Cost of Compliance - of the FOISA.

ACC would be happy to discuss ways in which you may refine your request, so we can provide some information of interest to you within the maximum cost limits. For example, by [reducing the time period you are interested in etc]. Please do contact the Access to Information team, who will be happy to advise you, if this is something you would like to pursue.

- **the number of council property tenants that have received any other penalty for unauthorised short-term/holiday lets (e.g. Airbnb) (please provide information about any such penalties)**

We have not issued any penalties.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE HANDLING OF YOUR REQUEST

ACC handled your request for information in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Please refer to the attached PDF for more information about your rights under FOISA.

We hope this helps with your request.

Yours sincerely,



Tomina Egbuson | Access to Information Officer

Aberdeen City Council | Access to Information Team | Customer Feedback
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