

From: [Foi Enquiries](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI-17-0614 - Evictions - Legal Advice
Date: 17 May 2017 09:41:41
Attachments: [Further Information - Right to Review & Appeal.pdf](#)

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your information request of 20 April 2017. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has completed the necessary search for the information requested.

Requesting information relating to the time period of 01 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, or the equivalent financial year for the council (“the year”). I am aware that this will mean that the data collected for each question may not be directly comparable.

The Requested Information:

Legal:

1. The number of evictions of tenants from council owned, residential properties that were managed by your council (not by an ALMO) during the year.

There were 103 dwellings abandoned following decree for recovery of possession of heritable property based on rent arrears and 34 physical evictions carried out totalling 137 Repossessions in 15/16.

2. The average amount spent on legal advice per eviction (including advice from in-house lawyers and external legal providers) for the year.

The average amount spent on legal services on the cost of each eviction for rent arrears is £154.95. £100 of this amount is outlays for lodging the case in court, which we seek to recover back from the tenant.

OR,

If the council does not hold or is unable to provide the amount spent on legal advice, I request that the council provides instead information it does hold from which this figure may be calculated. If the council does hold and is able to publish the amount spent on legal advice, then I do not require the information at Questions 3 to 10 and I respectfully ask that this is not considered when assessing the time to respond to this request in the first instance. In particular, I request:

3. Whether the council has sought advice from a. an in-house legal team and/ or whether the council has sought advice from b. external legal providers on evicting tenants from council owned residential property (not managed by an ALMO) during the year.

4. How the cost of this advice is recorded.

5. The amount spent on fees of external legal providers on legal advice relating to evicting tenants from council owned residential property (not managed by an ALMO) during the year.

6. The total amount spent during the year on the salary of in-house housing solicitors and a breakdown of how much of their time is spent advising on evicting tenants from council owned residential property (not managed by an ALMO)

7. If the amount spent on legal costs relating to evicting tenants from council owned

residential property are recorded in their own budget, the name of this budget and the total amount spent during the year.

8. If the costs are only recorded as part of a wider budget, then the name of this budget, and the total amount spent during the year.

9. An indication or estimate, if it exists, of the proportion of this wider budget or monies that is spent on legal advice relating to evictions.

10. A list of the other major costs which fall under the same wider budget.

Not applicable. Please see our response to questions 1 and 2 above.

We hope this helps with your request.

Yours sincerely,

Grant Webster
Information Compliance Officer

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.

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