

From: [Foi Enquiries](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI-17-0701 - Shipping Container Homes
Date: 31 May 2017 10:12:25
Attachments: [Further Information - Right to Review & Appeal.pdf](#)

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your information request of 12 May 2017. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has completed the necessary search for the information requested.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please could you provide answers to the following information regarding your Council's planning policies/application on shipping container homes?

1. How many planning applications have been submitted since 2006 to use shipping containers to build a permanent home? Please indicate the status: APPROVED / REJECTED OR PENDING?

There are no obvious relevant applications via searches of application descriptions or recalled by any current staff. A definitive response would require analysis of all new residential development proposals over the identified period, which would incur significant staff time and cost – with potentially no such proposals being identified.

With over 10k applications to be checked, this would be a significantly time-consuming task that would vastly exceed the cost limits detailed in the Freedom of Information (Fees for Required Disclosure) (Scotland) Regulations 2004. In terms of section 16 (4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where section 12 (1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

However, this information is also publicly available, via the website – <https://publicaccess.aberdeencity.gov.uk/online-applications/>. We would simply be searching against drawings associated to applications to see if a shipping container formed part of a house, rather than looking at any back office information. As explained above, the task of manually searching the website for all relevant applications would vastly exceed the current cost threshold of £600.

2. Under your Development Plans, which Core Strategy could be used in assessing, shipping containers as a sustainable housing solution within your local authority? Please expand on the decision.

Policy R7 within the Aberdeen Local Development Plan applies to all new buildings and requires that low and zero-carbon generating technology (LZCGT) be installed to reduce the predicted carbon dioxide emissions by at least 20% below that required by the Scottish building regulations at the time of the application. In addition water saving technologies and techniques are also required to ensure water efficiency. Supplementary Planning Guidance provides more detailed advice on both matters.

3. What supporting documentation is required by a self-builder/construction professional

to show compliance with planning policies for shipping containers as a sustainable housing solution?

Relative to Policy R7 and the related Supplementary Planning Guidance statements are required to be submitted demonstrating compliance with the required actions. Although it should be noted that this relates to all permanent new build homes, and is non-specific in relation to the use of shipping containers.

4. Would building a shipping container home onto a solid foundation change the status from moveable/temporary to a permanent structure? Please expand on your answer.

In a planning sense, if the home was to be permanently used then whether it was placed on a 'solid' foundation or not would not be particularly relevant. Permanent is permanent.

We hope this helps with your request.

Yours sincerely,

Information Compliance Team

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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