

FOI number: **HBC_FOI_2019075**
Date FOI Received: **24/01/2019**
Department: **Benefits**
Title: **Housing benefit - exempt accommodation**
Description: **Details of the amounts paid and suppliers of "Exempt accommodation" (not covered by the Housing Benefit or Universal Credit caps).**

Request: *(As Redacted sent by requestor)*

I am seeking information relating to accommodation that has been classed as 'exempt'. I am seeking the housing benefit paid for such accommodation, broken down into housing benefit, and to include service charges as outlined below.

Exempt accommodation is defined as:

"1) "Exempt accommodation" is a term used in Housing Benefit and Universal Credit to describe supported accommodation where the rules that normally limit the amount of rent covered by a benefit award do not apply.

The usual meaning of "exempt accommodation" is where the accommodation is provided by a landlord in the social or voluntary sector and the benefit claimant is provided with care, support or supervision by the landlord or by someone acting on the landlord's behalf.

A claimant occupying exempt accommodation does not have their housing benefit restricted to local housing allowance."

Please can you disclose the following:

1. details of the lowest awarded eligible core rent;
2. details of the highest awarded eligible core rent;
3. details of the lowest awarded gross eligible rent (i.e. inclusive of the core rent and the eligible service charges);
4. details of the highest awarded gross eligible rent (i.e. inclusive of the core rent and the eligible service charges); and
5. Please confirm the names of exempt accommodation providers in your area. Please name the providers/landlords who currently hold exempt accommodation status in respect of any of their residents.

Response: *(Response as Redacted sent by service)*

We do not record core rent - we only record details on the eligible rent for housing benefit purposes so I am unable to answer questions 1 and 2.

3. £133.77
4. £419.36
5. According to our records, the following are landlords with the borough that provide supported accommodation:
 - Camphill Village Trust
 - Dimensions UK
 - EHSL
 - Jewish Blind and Physically Handicapped
 - Langdon Independent Living
 - MENCAP Homes Foundation
 - Reside Housing Association LTD
 - Sapphire Independent Living

If you have any queries about the processing of your request then please do not hesitate to contact me. Further information explaining the Council's process for responding to information requests together with a complaints/appeals procedure is available in our reception or via our website at:

<https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Your-Council/Official-Publications--Guides--Policies/Access-to-Information.aspx>

The Information Commissioner oversees the application of the Freedom of Information Act. You may contact the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House, Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545700
Website: www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please include the above reference number on all correspondence related to this request.

Thank you for your request.

Kind regards
Information Services