

FOI number: **HBC_FOI_20190242**
Date FOI Received: **22/03/2019**
Department: **Housing**
Title: **Universal Credit Rent Arrears**
Description: **Number of Universal Credit claimants and Housing benefit claimants in arrears and number of related evictions 2013/14-2018/19.**

Request: *(As Redacted sent by requestor)*

Can I please request under the Freedom of Information Act:

- 1a) The number of Universal Credit claimants currently in rent arrears on their local authority-owned home;
- 1b) The combined value of all these arrears.

- 2a) The number of Housing Benefit claimants currently in rent arrears on their local authority-owned home;
- 2b) The combined value of all these arrears.

3) The total amount of rent, in £, which was owed but never paid by claimants of Universal Credit for local authority-owned dwellings since January 1 2013;

4) For each municipal year since 2013/14 and including 2018/19 to date, the number of evictions per year of households in receipt of Housing Benefit (separate figures by year please);

5) For each municipal year since 2013/14 and including 2018/19 to date, the number of evictions per year of households in receipt of Universal Credit (separate figures by year please).

If you cannot comply with my request within cost limits, please provide me with advice on how I may refine my request,

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

1a) Hertsmere Borough Council are not a stock holder. We have a number of properties that are owned by the council and these are used for Temporary Accommodation. As this is Temporary Accommodation the clients are exempt in relation to Universal Credit for the Housing Element.

1b) N/A

2a) 13 cases that are in arrears and in receipt of Housing Benefit.

2b) £3,244.44.

3) N/A

4) One eviction in 2018 and the client was entitled to Housing Benefit.

5) N/A.

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