

FOI Reference Number: FOI/476/1819

Date: 01/02/2019

Request:

To whom it may concern,

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.

Thank you for your time.

Response:

Thank you for your information request which Mid and East Antrim Borough Council received on 24/01/2019.

Please find below Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's response to the information you requested in relation to Exempt Accommodation Rent Information.

Please note that in Northern Ireland district councils are not responsible for the provision of housing benefit. Please contact the Northern Ireland Housing Executive who should be able to help you with your request.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of part of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Chief Executive at the Braid Ballymena Town Hall, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena, BT43 5EJ.

Please remember to quote the reference number FOI/476/1819 in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of an internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Please be advised that Mid and East Antrim Borough Council may release the response to this information request into the public domain via our website at <https://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/>.

If we publish our response to your request, your personal data will be removed to protect your privacy.