

Derek Bolton
Corporate Information Security Manager

Our Ref: FOI3462/DB/02
Please ask for: Derek Bolton
Direct dial: 01827 709 587
E-mail: foimailbox@tamworth.gov.uk

[Name Redacted]

10th July 2015

Dear [Name Redacted]

Freedom of Information – Request for Information

With regards to your recent enquiry for information held by the Authority under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Please find the information you requested below with reference in the box to your original enquiry for clarity where multiple answers are required.

Details of Your Request

- 1) How many people are under Council's Housing waiting list at present? Would you please specify the age group, gender and the number of minorities, BME community who are in the council's housing waiting list.
- 2) Would you please give specify how many people have applied for one bedroom, two bedroom, three bedroom, four bedroom, five bedroom in year 2012-2013?
- 3) Please provide number of how many people you have accommodated following the statutory duty under housing act whom have declared themselves as homeless and satisfied the homelessness assessment process. Please give number by year starting from January 2014 to December 2015. Please also specify their gender, age group and if possible ethnic identity.
- 4) Please provide number of people who are on current council waiting list who are homeless.
- 5) Please share what are the present council policy to address homelessness. And how council is allocating budget for that.
- 6) Please share the total number of council house and please specify the type of house and number and area and how many are currently empty.
- 7) Please provide how much council had spent yearly since January 2014 to December 2015, to build new council house/flat.
- 8) According to the Housing Act 1996 (as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002) all Local Authorities must have a Homelessness Strategy in place what are the homelessness strategy of the Council. Please share the yearly the yearly of starting from January 2014 to December 2015.
- 10) Under Part VII of the Housing Act 1996 (as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002) the Council has certain responsibilities towards people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. Would you please provide number, age, gender to which you provided service following the specific law?
- 11) How long do you take to process housing benefit claim? How many housing benefit claim has been process by the council since January 2014 to December 2015. Please provide number of each year.
- 12) How much has the council spent to pay employees who are working on homelessness issues in the council? Please give yearly details starting from January 2014 to December 2015.
- 13) How many people were successfully prosecuted for housing benefit fraud during year 2014 and 2015.
- 14) Did council appoint any third party to find out or tackle benefit fraud? If yes, who is the company and how much council has paid them for the service.
- 15) How do you undertake your responsive repairs and voids services? In-house DLO, private contractor, ALMO other?
- 16) Do you own your own housing stock?

The response to your request as follows:

- 1) **There are currently 1549 people on the Councils Housing Waiting List**
Age group ranges from 16 – 98
Gender Breakdown 58% Female and 42% Male
Of the 1549 people on the waiting list 1182 are White British (76%) 278 their ethnic origin is unknown (18%) and 89 come from BME groups (6%) – The section on Equality and

Diversity is an optional section on our housing application form and therefore not all applicants complete this information.

- 2) One bedroom – 688
Two bedroom - 291
Three bedroom - 112
Four Bedroom – 37
Five bedroom – 5
- 3) Quarter 1 – January 2014 – March 2014
15 Homeless Households who were eligible, Unintentionally Homeless and in Priority need. Of these:
Gender - We do not collect gender information
Age
8 – 16 -24
7 – 25 – 44
Ethnicity; 12 White, 1 Mixed, 2 Unknown
Of these 7 had a Part 6 offer of accommodation
Quarter 2 – April 2014 – June 2014
25 Homeless Households who were eligible, unintentionally Homeless and in Priority need Of these:
Gender - We do not collect gender information
Age
5 – 16 -24
15 – 25 – 44
4 – 45 – 59
1 - 65 - 74
Ethnicity; 25 – White,
Of these 1 had a part 6 offer of accommodation
Quarter 3 – July 2014 – September 2014
35 Homeless Households who were eligible, unintentionally Homeless and in Priority need, Of these
Gender - We do not collect gender information
Age
10 – 16 -24
23 – 25 – 44
2 – 45 – 59
Ethnicity - 35 White
Of these 8 had a part 6 offer of accommodation
Quarter 4 – October 2014 – December 2014
35 Homeless Households who were eligible, unintentionally Homeless and in Priority need. Of these;
Gender - We do not collect gender information
Age
14 – 16 -24
16 – 25 – 44
5 – 45 – 59
Ethnicity - 33 White, 1 Black, 1 Asian
Of these 0 had a part 6 offer of accommodation
We are unable to provide stats until December 2015 – As we are only in July 2015
These stats are until the end of December 2014
- 4) 117 of the 1549 have homeless applications ongoing (7% of those on the waiting list)
- 5) The Councils aim is in as many cases as possible to prevent homelessness and therefore policies relating to this area are focused on the prevention of homelessness rather than policies to address homelessness. The council has a number of policies which all aim to prevent homelessness and include support for those who may be facing homelessness due to Domestic Abuse, Race or Hate Crime, The Repossession Prevention Policy which provides one off grants or loans that may prevent eviction or repossession, a Bond Scheme which provide paper bonds to landlords to improve

access to the Private Rented Sector. These policies are currently all going through a robust review process to ensure they support those who may be facing homelessness and this includes considering how the Homelessness Prevention Grant is allocated to each of these to ensure sufficient resources to meet demand.

- 6) This information is publicly accessible on our website at: <http://findingahometamworth.co.uk/content/locations.aspx> therefore an exemption under Section 21 of the Act is applied in respect of this question, as there is no obligation to provide the information again where it is already available by other means.
- 7) 0
- 8) The Council is currently reviewing its Homelessness Strategy and this will be out for consultation in the next couple of months on the Councils Website and will be going to Cabinet for approval in autumn 2015.
- 10) Could we please have some clarification on this question? Does you mean everyone who we have given advice to on their housing options, those we have taken a homeless application from, those we have a section 188 duty towards, those we have a section 193 duty towards and for what time period?
- 11) This information is publicly accessible within previous requests contained in our disclosure logs on our website at: <http://www.tamworth.gov.uk/disclosure-log> therefore an exemption under Section 21 of the Act is applied in respect of this question, as there is no obligation to provide the information again where it is already available by other means.
- 12) Again you state until the end of December 2015 – as we are not there yet, we are unable To provide this figure, therefore we have provided January 2014 – December 2014. The figure for staff for this year is £263,581.60 – In addition to this we paid £52874.47 for temporary staff
- 13) This information is publicly accessible within previous requests contained in our disclosure logs on our website at: <http://www.tamworth.gov.uk/disclosure-log> therefore an exemption under Section 21 of the Act is applied in respect of this question, as there is no obligation to provide the information again where it is already available by other means.
- 14) This information is publicly accessible within previous requests contained in our disclosure logs on our website at: <http://www.tamworth.gov.uk/disclosure-log> therefore an exemption under Section 21 of the Act is applied in respect of this question, as there is no obligation to provide the information again where it is already available by other means.
- 15) This information is publicly accessible on our website at: <http://www.tamworth.gov.uk/housing-repairs> therefore an exemption under Section 21 of the Act is applied in respect of this question, as there is no obligation to provide the information again where it is already available by other means.
- 16) This information is publicly accessible on our website at: <http://tamworth.gov.uk/finding-home> therefore an exemption under Section 21 of the Act is applied in respect of this question, as there is no obligation to provide the information again where it is already available by other means.
- 17) This information is publicly accessible on our website at: <http://www.findingahometamworth.co.uk/index.aspx> therefore an exemption under Section 21 of the Act is applied in respect of this question, as there is no obligation to provide the information again where it is already available by other means. This authority does not hold information on stock levels of housing associations.

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The Corporate Information Security Manager,
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Lichfield Street,
Tamworth,
B79 7BZ

Details of Tamworth Borough Council's internal review and complaints procedure are attached, in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Yours Sincerely

Derek Bolton
Corporate Information Security Manager