



Request

1. As of October 2024, can you provide the number of Local Authority and Housing association vacant dwellings?

- 1a. As of October 2024, can you provide the number of households on waiting lists for social housing?

- 2a. Between 1 October, 2023 and 1 October, 2024, can you provide the number of complaints the council has had regarding:
 - i. Damp
 - ii. Mould
 - iii. Disrepair

**If Damp and Mould are categorised together - please provide the total figure - if they are separately logged, please provide separate figures.*

- 2b. How much has the council paid out on repairs as a result of each of the issues?
 - i. Damp
 - ii. Mould
 - iii. Disrepair

Response

As at 14.10.2024 there are 410 vacant properties owned by Wigan Council. We are unable to report on dwellings owned by Housing Associations.

12, 546

We have received 17,092 complaints from customers regarding disrepair issues in their homes between 01/10/23 – 01/10/24. Of these complaints, 5,971 are related to damp and mould issues.

We do not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) relieves a public authority from the obligation to comply with a request for information where the estimated time required to locate, review and extract the information exceeds a certain threshold set out in Regulations.

The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/3244) set out the rules in relation to the cost limit (otherwise called the “appropriate limit”). These Regulations are published by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) and are viewable on their web site from this link: http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2004/uksi_20043244_en.pdf

The Regulations set out the cost limit for Government departments and for other public authorities. For local government, Regulation 3 states that the cost limit is £450 and Regulation 4(4) states that the prescribed hourly rate is £25. Regulation 4(4) further provides that where the local authority estimates the time taken to gather the information would exceed this limit (which based on the prescribed hourly rate, equates to 18 officer hours), it may refuse the request under section 12 of FoIA.

I am satisfied the cost limit applies to your request and will explain why this is the case.

We are unable to differentiate how much we have spent specifically on repairs specific to damp, mould and disrepair due to the time involved as it would involve looking into each job, which will take 1 min each (42,902 jobs). This will take 715 hours.

However, I can confirm we have spent £10,390,147.69 on repairs during this period.