



REQUEST 17728

1. Provide details regarding the role of Rhino Properties or other external organizations in the housing allocation process.

RESPONSE

1. We are unaware of Rhino properties. Other organisations that we may share information with and the reasons for this are included within the housing application declaration;

I understand that Wigan Council may need to contact other agencies for information about me so they can process my application and assess my suitability to be a tenant and abide by the conditions of tenancy. This could include contacting Housing Benefits and Council Tax, other landlords, the Benefits Agency, Probation Service, the Police and Social Services.

I give permission for Wigan Council to undertake identification verification and/or credit checks with an external company to confirm my identity and help establish that I am able to afford the outgoings to manage a tenancy.

I give permission for Wigan Council to contact any relevant agencies, including my present and/or former landlord. I give these agencies permission to share any information they hold on me with Wigan Council so that they can deal with my housing application and any future tenancy. I understand that even if I do not agree to allow this, some information can still be shared to prevent and detect fraud or if it is to stop me committing crime.

We also work with other providers, such as Your Housing Group, Jigsaw, and Torus, we advertise properties on their behalf, applicants on Wigan Council's housing register can place bids on properties advertised by other providers as well as council owned accommodation.

2. How does Wigan Council align with its obligations to prioritise vulnerable residents in need of urgent rehousing?

2. The Council assesses housing applications in accordance with the Allocation policy. Applicants are awarded points based on individual circumstances and housing need. Those in greater need receive more points in order to prioritise applicants accordingly.

Separate assessments are also carried out for medical and welfare needs which again prioritises applicants in need of urgent rehousing.

Properties are allocated in accordance with the Allocation policy. Needs based properties are allocated to the applicants with the highest priority in order of points. Time based properties are allocated to Wigan Council tenants and are prioritised by registration date.