

Data Protection Officer
Freedom of Information
NW Leicestershire District Council
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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 1104

I write further to your email dated 12 February 2020.

Your request has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, explained on our [freedom of information](#) page.

Your request:

For each of the following points in time:

- Now
- End of the reporting year 2018/19
- End of the reporting year 2017/18
- End of the reporting year 2016/17
- End of the reporting year 2015/16

Please could you tell me:

1. How many council tenants (including those in council-run emergency/temporary accommodation if applicable) were in arrears on their rent?
2. What was the total sum owed in arrears?
3. How many of those tenants were Universal Credit claimants?
4. What was the total THEY owed?

Please could you also tell me:

5. How does the council plan to cover the current shortfall in rent owed in arrears?
6. When was Universal Credit rolled out in your authority's area?

Our response:

End of reporting year:	1. How many council tenants were in rent arrears?	2. What was the total sum owed?	3. How many of those were UC Claimants?	4. What was the total they owed?
Now	1102 (26%)	£340,075.53	535*	£190,671.72*
2018/19	1113 (27%)	£351,427.68	Not Recorded	Not Recorded
2017/18	1151 (28%)	£330,602.61	Not Recorded	Not Recorded
2016/17	1067 (26%)	£346,049.76	Not Recorded	Not Recorded
2015/16	1168 (28%)	£350,957.59	Not Recorded	Not Recorded

5. We do not feel any changes to financial planning are required to cover the current shortfall in rent owed in arrears as there are no overall negative implications as a result of Universal Credit.
6. Universal Credit was rolled out on 7 February 2018.

*It is important to note that as a local authority we identify tenants who are in receipt of Universal Credit at the time their rent is verified, however there is no responsibility on the tenant to inform us when they are no longer claiming Universal Credit and therefore the number of Universal Credit claimants and associated rent owned is the best available data but cannot be confirmed as accurate.

The supply of information in response to a freedom of information request does not confer the right to re-use the information. UK copyright law allows information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research to be used without permission. Information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting except for in the case of photographs.

GOING FORWARD

If you are dissatisfied with the information supplied please feel free to contact me on the number above for any queries in relation to this response. Please note that in responding to further enquiries I can only comment on the information contained within this correspondence and cannot provide any further information that may pertain to an additional FOIA request.

Please remember to quote the Authority's four digit reference number given at the top of this email in any future communications.

If you remain dissatisfied following the conclusion of the above informal review, you have the right to ask for an internal review. A request for a review whether formal or informal should be submitted within two calendar months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be sent to DPO@NWLeicestershire.gov.uk or the address above.

Further details on our appeals and complaints procedure can be found on our website [here](#).

If you remain dissatisfied following the conclusion of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at accessicoinformation@ico.org.uk.