



Further to your information request FOI/EIR 25/26-330, please find your question and our response below.

Request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following recorded information held by the District Council in relation to supported housing and exempt accommodation used by Registered Providers and other supported housing landlords in your area.

1. For the two most recent complete financial years, the average, median and range of gross weekly or monthly rents accepted by the Council for supported or exempt accommodation where Housing Benefit or the housing element of Universal Credit is paid. If possible, please provide this broken down by client group, for example mental health, learning disability, forensic or complex needs.
2. For the same period, the average, median and range of rent uplifts above the applicable Local Housing Allowance that the Council has accepted as reasonable for such schemes. If you hold it in another form, banded data is fine.
3. Any internal policies, guidance notes, procedures or benchmark documents used by Housing Benefit decision makers to assess rent reasonableness or enhanced rent for supported or exempt accommodation, including any documents that refer to expected uplifts or typical ranges.

Response:

1. Each scheme is reviewed based on the services provided. It is therefore not possible to provide a breakdown based on client group as even within a scheme the charge may vary depending on the support provided. We can provide the range of accommodation charges for supported or exempt accommodation within the East Cambridgeshire area. For the year 2023-24 this was between £105.05 at the lowest and the highest £455. For the year 2024-25 this was between 100.05 at the lowest and £426.90 at the highest.

The average charge for 2023/24 was £265.78

The average charge for 2024/25 was £278.79.

2. The council does not measure how much Housing Benefit is paid above LHA rate. In many cases the accommodation is provided by a registered provider and therefore neither the LHA rate nor a Rent Officer decision is required. If the landlord is not a registered provider claims are referred to the Rent Officer. At the end of each year the amount of benefit paid above the Rent Officer decision is reported back to the DWP.

3. As a partnership the council follows DWP guidance regarding reasonableness of accommodation charge and reviews all charges based on the services provided and with reference to similar accommodation in the locality.

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 25/26-330.

If information has been refused, please treat this as a Refusal Notice for the purposes of the Act.

If you disagree with our decision or are otherwise unhappy with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you may approach foi@eastcambs.gov.uk and request a review. A request for review must be made in no more than 40 working days from the date of this email.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under s50 of the Freedom of Information Act to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.