

East Lothian Council

EIR Ref: 2018/271(483458)

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please could you provide me with information about the following:

- ***the number of requests for advice have been made to the council by private rental tenants in each of the following years - 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, and 2013, if possible, broken down by the reason for the request for advice, e.g. Eviction or being asked to leave your home (Notice to Quit), Harassment from landlord, Repairs, Deposits, Rent and other charges etc.***

East Lothian Council (ELC) does not record this information. We help and advise tenants on an ad hoc basis but do not keep a log or register of such requests*.

You may be interested to learn that the Scottish Government publishes housing statistics (HL1 and Prevent1) on its website. A link to the relevant page is provided for your convenience:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Housing-Regeneration/RefTables>

Please note that the HL1 and Prevent1 stats are not established in the way specified in this request. The homeless reasons are noted at Appendix I overleaf. For example there is no reason "repairs" or "notice to quit" (NTQ) although one could assume that any NTQ cases will be in "Other action by landlord resulting in the termination of the tenancy".

- ***The number of complaints to environmental health or to the tenancy relations officer (or similar) relating to health and safety hazards in private rented properties in each of the following years - 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, and 2013.***

ELC does not specifically record details of complaints made in connection with health and safety hazards in private rented properties*. No members of ELC staff have sole responsibility for such matters within the private rental sector. It forms part of an overall role, not a specific role in itself.

ELC's Customer Feedback Team, does, however, report annually on the use of the Council's complaints procedure. The report is published on ELC's website and a link to the most recent report is provided for your convenience:

https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/19428/1818_customer_feedback_reporting_201617

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- ***How many environmental health inspections were carried out in private rented properties in each of the following years - 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, and 2013. Please also provide a breakdown for each year for how many inspections led to no further action taken, how many led to informal action, how many hazard awareness notices were sent, how many improvement notices, how many emergency work notices and how many prohibition notices.***

As above, ELC does not specifically record details of such inspections carried out in private rented properties*. Again, no members of ELC staff have sole responsibility for such matters within the private rental sector. It forms part of an overall role, not a specific role in itself.

- ***How many officers (FTE) did the council have that had a responsibility for private rental matters in each of the following years - 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, and 2013***

1.5 FTE per year.

*Under Regulation 10(4)(a) of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004, I must formally advise you that ELC has been unable to comply with those parts of your request marked * as the level of detail you require is not recorded.

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Appendix I

All applications
Reason accommodation is no longer available
Termination of tenancy to rent arrears: LA tenancy
Termination of tenancy to rent arrears: RSL tenancy
Termination of tenancy to rent arrears: Private rented tenancy
Termination of mortgage due to default on payments
Other action by landlord resulting in the termination of the tenancy
Applicant terminated secure accommodation
Loss of service / tied accommodation
Discharge from prison / hospital / care / other institution
Emergency (fire, flood, storm, closing order from Environmental Health etc.)
Forced division and sale of matrimonial home
Other reason for loss of accommodation
Reason for having to leave accommodation/household
Dispute within household: violent or abusive
Dispute within household / relationship breakdown: non-violent
Fleeing non-domestic violence
Harassment
Overcrowding
Asked to leave
Other reason for leaving accommodation / household