

East Lothian Council

FOI Ref: 2018/511659

I would like the following information sent to me under the Freedom of Information Regulations.

Q1. How many New Allocation Allowances were made by East Lothian Council in the years

- 2015-2016***
- 2016-2017***
- 2017-2018?***

Q2. Using the years in Q1, broken down into those periods, how many New Allocation Allowances were paid in full?

Q3. Using the years in Q1, broken down into those periods, what percentage of New Allocation Allowances were withheld?

Q4 Using the years in Q1, broken down into those periods, what percentage of the amounts withheld was for recharges?

Please refer to Appendix I overleaf.

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Appendix I

	Q1	Q2			Q3
Period	No Dec All	No paid in full	No with offset	% in full	% with offset
2015/16	315	121	194	38	62
2016/17	290	114	176	39	61
2017/18	371	125	246	34	66
	976	360	616		

Q4 East Lothian Council (ELC) offsets new allocation allowance against arrears off for rent, council tax, housing benefit overpayment, re-charges and sundry accounts. Dependent on the levels of debt, the allowance may only be offset against one debt e.g.: rent arrears.

Some payments will go toward recharges, however, it would require each allowance to be looked at on a case by case basis to analyse further. Freedom of Information legislation only applies to information which is held or recorded by a public authority. A public authority is not required to create new information in order to comply with an information request. In view of this, under Section 17(1)(b) of the Act, I must formally advise you that ELC has been unable to comply with this part of your request as the information you require is not recorded.