

Date Provided: 31 August 2021

Title Building Control

Ref: FOI 14381

Information Request

I am writing to request data held by Lewes District Council on building control activities in your area under the Freedom of Information Act.

Please could you provide me with the following datasets in Excel format:

- 1) The number of Initial Notices from Approved Inspectors the council/building control partnership has received and accepted in each year for the period 2015-2021.
 - a. For each year, please indicate the breakdown of Initial Notices received by building type e.g. residential (i.e. social housing, high rise etc) or commercial (i.e. school, hospital, office etc.), and whether new build vs. a modification of an existing structure.
- 2) The number of Building Control Applications the council/building control partnership has received in each year for the period 2015-2021 (i.e. the number of projects in each year for which the council/building control partnership has acted as the Building Control Body).
 - a. For each year, please indicate the breakdown of Applications received by building type e.g. residential (i.e. social housing, high rise etc) or commercial (i.e. school, hospital, office etc.), and whether new build vs. a modification of an existing structure.

Please could you also provide me with:

- 3) The schedule of fees charged by the council/building control partnership for building control services in 2021.
 - 4) Where held, the schedules of fees charged by Approved Inspectors for building control services in the council/building control partnership's area in 2021.
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Response by Lewes District Council

I have carefully reviewed your request and investigated whether there is any information disclosable to you. Unfortunately, the council is not able to give

you the information because it considers it is exempt from disclosure. I have set out the reasons for this decision below.

Due to the volume of information you have requested the council has determined that it is unable to provide you with this information as we consider this information to be exempt under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 12(1) states:

The general right of access to information held by public authorities does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the 'appropriate limit'.

The 'appropriate limit' has been determined by the Lord Chancellor and is currently set at £450 for a local authority. This figure equates to a maximum of 18 hours officer time, excluding disbursement costs, before the local authority has the choice to either commence charging at £25 per additional hour or not to respond to the request.

The council's current policy is not to proceed with requests if they exceed the 'appropriate limit'. However, this does not indicate that the council is not willing to respond to your request. If you were able to modify your request in order to bring it below the appropriate limit by being more specific about the parameters of your question the council would be happy to provide an answer.

Lewes District Council does not have summary reporting systems which would enable us to provide the information you require within the 18 hour limit. We do hold the information however there are in excess of 6000 Building Control application records including AINs for the years included within the parameters set and it would require us to access every one to produce the answers.

I can advise that the information for your question on fees is publicly available through our website which can be accessed via this link –

[Building Control Fees](#)