

FOI number: **HBC_FOI_2019095**
Date FOI Received: **29/01/2019**
Department: **Planning**
Title: **Planning Applications**
Description: **Number of housing planning applications refused, the percentage refused and percentage granted from 2016 onward.**

Request: *(As Redacted sent by requestor)*

I wish to request, under the Freedom of Information Act, that you supply me with the following:

To ask the number of:

- a) housing planning applications refused
- b) the percentage of housing planning applications refused
- c) the percentage granted every year since and including 2016?

Public Interest

I believe there is a strong public interest in releasing this information since it will promote greater transparency in government and greater accountability in the conduct of those who hold public office.

The information requested is not reasonably accessible by other means to the best of my knowledge.

Commercial interests

I do not believe that any of the information I have requested is exempt from disclosure as a result of the exemption provided by section 43 of the Act. However, should you judge that parts of the material requested would come under this exemption, I request that you *redact the relevant sections* and release the documents in their entirety.

For example, should you believe that the identification of suppliers that may result from disclosing the invoices received would prejudice that company's commercial interests, then I request that you redact the details of the supplier from the documents you release.

Confidentiality issues

Exemptions on the 'information being provided in confidence' do not apply. The Information Commissioner advises, "information which is protected from disclosure by an obligation of confidence must have the necessary 'quality of confidence'" (*Freedom of Information Act Awareness Guidance No 2*).

Where it is considered that under the FOI Act certain parts of documents requested breach confidentiality issues, I would request that these sections be redacted and the documents be released in their entirety.

Redacting personal information is a common practice - It is not acceptable to refuse to release a document simply because it contains elements of personal information that could be redacted.

Data protection issues.

I am not requesting personal information. Where necessary personal details may be redacted from any documents that you release.

Redacting personal information is a common practice - It is not acceptable to refuse to release a document simply because it contains elements of personal information that could be redacted.

Processing of these requests

I would like to receive this information by email, sent to: <REDACTED>

Further to section 16 of the FOI Act (duty to provide advice and assistance), if you have any queries relating to these requests or need clarification on any issue, I would be grateful if you could contact me on the above email address.

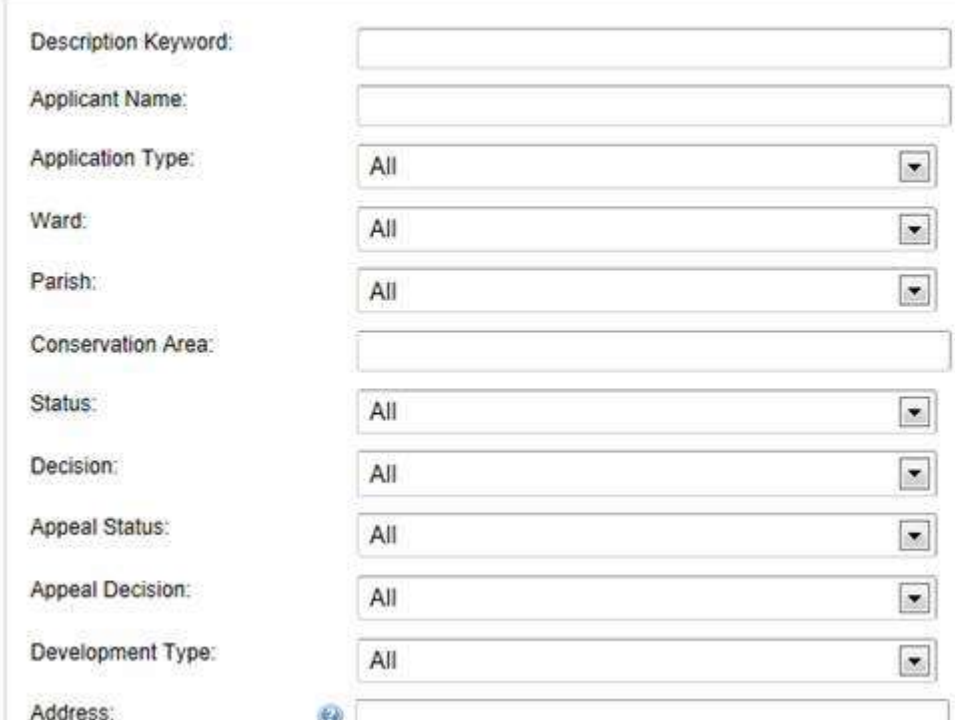
I would like to request that any refusal to any part of the above requests (including on cost grounds) be accompanied by a recommendation of how the request may be modified so as to be granted.

Response: *(Response as Redacted sent by service)*

The information you have requested is publically available and is contained in the Planning Register on the Council's website, which can be viewed using the advanced search, accessible via the following link:

<http://www6.hertsmere.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=advanced>

Under Application Details insert a Description Keyword, and select an appropriate Application Type from the drop-down menu.



The screenshot shows a web form titled "Application Details". It contains several input fields and dropdown menus for filtering search results. The fields are: "Description Keyword:" (text input), "Applicant Name:" (text input), "Application Type:" (dropdown menu with "All" selected), "Ward:" (dropdown menu with "All" selected), "Parish:" (dropdown menu with "All" selected), "Conservation Area:" (text input), "Status:" (dropdown menu with "All" selected), "Decision:" (dropdown menu with "All" selected), "Appeal Status:" (dropdown menu with "All" selected), "Appeal Decision:" (dropdown menu with "All" selected), "Development Type:" (dropdown menu with "All" selected), and "Address:" (text input with a location pin icon).

Finally insert your date parameters in the Date Received fields.

Dates

Enter a date range (a start date and an end date) for the criteria that you are interested in. The date fields may be entered manually using the date format dd/mm/yyyy (e.g. 21/06/2008). Alternatively, click on the calendar button and pick a date.

Date Received: to:

Date Validated: to:

Date Actual Committee: to:

Decision Date: to:

Appeal Decision Date: to:

If you have any queries about the processing of your request then please do not hesitate to contact me. Further information explaining the Council's process for responding to information requests together with a complaints/appeals procedure is available in our reception or via our website at:

<https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Your-Council/Official-Publications--Guides--Policies/Access-to-Information.aspx>

The Information Commissioner oversees the application of the Freedom of Information Act. You may contact the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House, Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545700
Website: www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please include the above reference number on all correspondence related to this request.

Thank you for your request.

Kind regards

Information Services