

Date: 01/02/2024

Ref: CAM6794

Dear Requester

Thank you for your request for information dated 11/01/2024 about Permissions for alterations within flats. We have dealt with this under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Response

The council holds the information requested. However we are withholding some of the information because it is exempt as explained below. We have explained where we are withholding information and what exemptions apply. Please see the refusal notices at the end of the answers which explain how and why they apply.

In the last 10 years, many properties have had excessive alterations within the flats, requiring written permission per lease clause 3.14. Some of those alterations also need to comply with clause 3.19 regarding floor covering to minimise noise to other flats. How many written permissions has the housing or planning departments have given to leaseholders or tenants on the Curnock Street Estate so far in the last 10 years? I do not need to know which flats (it is publicly available), but I need the total number of permissions for the whole estate and, if possible, per block.

We are refusing your request under Section 12 on cost grounds because we estimate that compliance with your request will exceed the "appropriate limit". This is £450 which is equivalent to 18 hours at £25 per hour. The per hour figure is set by Regulations rather than actual salary paid to any officers handling requests. The appropriate limit includes the time it will take the council to discover if it holds the information requested, to locate it, extract it and collate it as well as putting it into any particular format requested by the requester.

To answer: **How many written permissions has the housing or planning departments have given to tenants on the Curnock Street Estate so far in the last 10 years** would involve checking every property record manually as this information is not collected and logged separately for tenanted properties.

To manually check the 286 properties on the Curnock Street Estate for the tenanted properties, then examining each record manually to search for written permissions, it is estimated that it would take around 10 minutes per record and so over 47 hours to check all the properties.

Advice and Assistance:

As advice and assistance I have been provided with the following information which came from different teams.

In the last 10 years, many properties have had excessive alterations within the flats, requiring written permission per lease clause 3.14. Some of those alterations also need to comply with clause 3.19 regarding floor covering to minimise noise to other flats.

Section 55 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) sets out the meaning of development, 'development' requires planning permission.

S55 (2) states that 'the following operations or uses of land shall not be taken for the purposes of this Act to involve development of the land.

- (a) the carrying out for the maintenance, improvement, or other alteration of any building of works which –
 - (i) affect only the interior of the building, or
 - (ii) do not materially affect the external appearance of the building.

In view of this there are no planning applications for alterations to the interior of the flats. Planning permission would be required for works which materially affect the external appearance of the building.

How many written permissions has the housing or planning departments have given to leaseholders on the Curnock Street Estate so far in the last 10 years?

The Housing department has issued alterations licences to 9 leaseholder in the Curnock Street Estate since 2014 as detailed below.

Blocks within Curnock Street Estate	Alterations licences issued since 2014
Barnbrough	0
Billingley	2
Conisborough	0
Darfield	0
Goldthorpe	0
Hickleton	1
Mexborough	0
Ravenscar	1
The Marr	0
Thurnscoe	0
Trimdon	5
Warmsworth	0

To provide any tenanted information, we could probably provide it for a smaller number of blocks, depending on their size. For example you may be interested in receiving the information on the block that you live in. If you would like to make a new request on a smaller scale please email FOI@camden.gov.uk.

Further Information:

We do not give our consent for any names and contact details provided in this response to be sent marketing material. Any such use will be reported to the ICO as a breach of General Data Protection Regulations and the Privacy and Electronic Communication Regulations.

Why not check our Portal [Open Data Camden](#) before making a new request as your question may already be answered by a previous [FOI response](#) or in one of our many useful and interesting datasets.

Your Rights

If you are not happy with how your response was handled you can request an Internal Review within 2 months of this letter by email to foireviews@camden.gov.uk or post: Information and Records Management Team, London Borough of Camden, Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE. Please quote your case reference number. If you are not satisfied with the Internal Review outcome you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office at casework@ico.org.uk telephone 0303 123 1113, or post to Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. The ICO website www.ico.org.uk may be useful.

Yours sincerely

Philip Lewis
Information Rights Officer