



North Tyneside Council

Freedom of information requests concerning houses of multiple occupancy (HMO)

North Tyneside Council is frequently asked for information relating to houses of multiple occupancy.

The Authority has considered these questions carefully and is withholding this information. This is because it considers it exempt under section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Refusal notice: Section 21 - information accessible to the applicant by other means

We are frequently asked for a list of properties listed as a house of multiple occupancy (HMO). The Authority have decided to refuse this information under section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, information accessible to the applicant by other means. The reason for this is that this information is publicly available under section 232(4) of the Housing Act 2004.

Information Commissioner Decision Notice IC- 129062-H2M9 found that section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act was appropriately applied in a similar request for information from Vale of Glamorgan Council <https://ico.org.uk/media/action-weve-taken/decision-notice/2022/4022388/ic-129062-h2m9.pdf>

The section 21 exemption of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ensures there is no right of access to information via the Freedom of Information Act if it is available to the applicant by another route. As the HMO register is available for public viewing under section 232(4) of the Housing Act, it cannot be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The registers can be inspected by appointment only at the [Licensing Office](#) between 9.30am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Right of review

You have the right to a review of the Authority decision; however, the Authority last reviewed its position in December 2024. The Authority will review this position annually.

If you have made a Freedom of Information request to the Authority and you are unhappy with the initial response you may request an internal review within two months of the response by contacting, FOI.Officer@northtyneside.gov.uk please quote your FOI reference number.

If you are not satisfied with the response to your internal review, you may contact the information Commissioner's Office at www.ico.org.uk or via post below:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113
www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints