

Our Ref: FOI 5777

Ms [REDACTED]

By [REDACTED]



Derry City & Strabane
District Council
Comhairle
Chathair Dholre &
Cheantar an tSratha Báin
Derry Cittie & Strabane
Districk Council

Date: 23rd June 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: FOI / 5777 - HMO'S in and surrounding the Magee Conservation Area

I refer to your email dated 26th May 2025 requesting information under the Freedom of Information regulations. As your information request relates to environmental information it has been dealt with under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

I have responded to your request as below:

Request:

Please note that I attended a public meeting at the Student Hive Magee University on Wednesday the 19th of February last.

A number of Councillors from Derry and Strabane District Council were in attendance

Councillor Grace Nelis, who sits on your Planning Committee, was amongst those in attendance.

She advised the meeting that the Council had suspended the hearing of all applications dealing with HMO's until such times as you received up-to-date figures upon which to base your decisions.

As the above meeting took place over three months ago, I would appreciate if you would please provide the figures that the Council were waiting for by return.

Response: Council does hold information relating to the assessment of current applications for HMO developments, awaiting decision. This information is comprised of properties that have current and pending HMO Licence data and is already publicly available on the HMO licensing web page. Please see the attached link to the online register. There are two databases on this page, one is a register of licensed HMOs and the other relates to live applications for HMOs.

Derry/Strabane

C/o Planning Department
Derry City and Strabane District Council,
88 Strand Road,
Derry
BT48 7NN

0300 200 7930
planning@derrystrabane.com
www.derrystrabane.com

f Derry City & Strabane District Council
@dcscouncil

<https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/checkhmollicence>

Each current planning application must also consider if there are any other granted HMO developments in the street. Council does hold this information which is also already publicly available on the planning history register by searching for the property address at the following link to planning portal:
<https://planningregister.planningsystemni.gov.uk/simple-search>

You are advised this information may change if the planning and licence status of any relevant property on the street changes. The information is assessed in each individual planning application in order to provide an up-to-date planning assessment on each case, as required by policy HOU 13. The address of each current planning application is checked against the information held on the HMO licensing web site, which is currently publicly accessible. This assessment including any relevant data used from both the HMO licensing web site and the planning history on the planning portal will be publicly available through each case officer report, once officers are in a position to make a recommendation on each case.

If you are dissatisfied with how the Council handled your request for information, you have the right to request that the Council formally review this decision. If you wish to do so, please write to John Kelpie, Chief Executive, Derry City and Strabane District Council, 98 Strand Road, Derry, BT48 7NN.

Should you remain dissatisfied following the Council's internal review, you can seek an independent review from the Information Commission. Requests for an independent review should be made in writing to:

The Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

However, I would advise you that the Information Commissioner has indicated that a review will not be undertaken unless the Council has first had an opportunity to re-consider its decision.

If you have any queries in relation to this response, please contact me on the details given above.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne McCracken'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Suzanne McCracken
Head of Planning

