



**Derry City & Strabane**  
District Council

Comhairle  
**Chathair Dhoire &  
Cheantar an tSraitha Báin**

**Derry Cittie & Stràbane**  
Destrict Cooncil

Ref: EIR / 1437

11 September 2017

Mr  
JP Corry  
648 Springfield Road  
Belfast  
BT12 7EH

Email: @jpcorry.co.uk

Dear Mr

### **Environmental Information Regulations 2004 Request Statistics for loft conversions and extensions**

I refer to your EIR request and respond as follows:

#### **Request:**

The percentage/numbers of loft conversions and extensions in Northern Ireland is publicly available? I have been tasked by my manager to look into some of the trends since 2015 in relation to percentage increases into this market.

#### **Response**

The Council has undertaken a search of its records held by building control and the planning office and can confirm that it holds relevant recorded information. However, both the Planning Office and Building Control have advised this information is held only in individual file hard copy format and therefore to extract the information required would require a manual examination of all building control and planning files held. Council deem it manifestly unreasonable to produce this information as outlined in regulation 12(4)(b) of the Environmental Information Regulations:

#### **Derry**

C/o Council Offices  
98 Strand Road  
Derry  
BT48 7NN

#### **Strabane**

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47 Derry Road  
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BT82 8DY

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“Regulation 12(4)(b)

- dealing with a request would create unreasonable costs or an **unreasonable diversion of resources;**”

Please note we consider this exception to be concerned with the nature of the request and the impact of dealing with it and not any adverse effect that might arise from disclosure of the content of the information requested. The public interest in maintaining this exception lies in protecting us from exposure to disproportionate burden and disruption in handling this information request which to comply with would thereby place a strain on resources and get in the way of Council delivering mainstream services.

Under Regulation 9(1) of the EIR we are obliged to provide advice and assistance, so far as it would be reasonable to expect us to do so, however in this instance Council regrets that we cannot assist or suggest how you could refine your request.

I would also advise that not all loft conversions or extensions require planning permission and of those that do, information you request may be publically available on the Planning Portal at <https://www.planningni.gov.uk/>

If you are dissatisfied with our response you have rights of review and appeal; these rights consist of two review processes. Firstly our internal review procedure is available by contacting:

John Kelpie  
Chief Executive  
Derry City and Strabane District Council  
98 Strand Road  
Derry BT48 7NN  
Tel 028 71253253 or email [john.kelpie@derrystrabane.com](mailto:john.kelpie@derrystrabane.com)

Secondly, you can appeal directly by contacting the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
CHESHIRE SK9 5AF  
Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or email: [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

Yours sincerely

**Director of Environment and Regeneration**