

56603 Planning and Safeguarding Oversight of Asylum Hotels

Planning classification records (e.g. Use Class C1) and any applications or decisions relating to material change of use since January 2023.

The Planning information associated with all such premises is published on the Planning Portal at:

<https://citydev-portal.edinburgh.gov.uk/idxpa-web/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application>

Enter the street names of the premises you are interested in into the Search field.

Correspondence with the Home Office or Mears Group regarding objections, consultation, or enforcement actions tied to asylum accommodation.

Please refer to the attached correspondence.

Third-party personal information has been redacted from the document provided in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

Records of safeguarding concerns, complaints, or referrals linked to these hotels, including any internal assessments or multi-agency responses.

We can confirm that since 2023, the Council has had 23 young people present for age assessment to Children's Services from asylum hotels in Edinburgh. Of that number, 13 young people have since entered the care of the Local Authority either as age accepted young people and 5 young people similarly accepted as looked after/care-experienced children by the local authority pending full age assessment.

For anyone residing in Mears Group PLC accommodation referred for age assessment, Mears initiate and notify the Council of their own safeguarding measures. These include ensuring the age-disputed person has their own room and welfare checks.

The City of Edinburgh Council's Children's Services ensures its own safeguarding processes are followed. These include initiation of child protection discussions as required, ensuring our own welfare assessment and visiting outreach support is in place while age assessment is on-going, and that relevant referrals and requests for suitable Local Authority housing provision are made for all those age-accepted or awaiting fuller age assessment.