58193 Private-Rented Housing - Energy Standards

I am writing to you to request some information regarding Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) and compliance with Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) in private-rented housing in your area. More specifically, we would like answers to the following questions:

Private-rented and HMO properties

How many properties do you have in total registered as meeting House of Multiple Occupancy (HMO) compliance regulations?

Please refer to our register of HMO properties published on our website at:

https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/13239/licensing-registers-civic

A current licence is one where the decision (Column J) refers to the licence being granted and the expiry date (Column M) is in the future. A renewal application keeps an existing licence live while the renewal application is being considered.

How many properties do you have in total registered in your area as being privately rented?

This includes both HMO and non-HMO private-rented properties.

65,446

MEES Compliance:

How many MEES Compliance Notices have you served in the last 12 months?

Of these notices served, how many Compliance Notices resulted in a confirmed breach of regulation?

How many of these breaches resulted in the issue of a fine?

What was the total penalty amount for each confirmed breach?

Not applicable.

MEES regulations operate in England and Wales only, they do not apply in Scotland.

EPCs:

How many properties have registered for an EPC exemption, and where available, what are the reasons for these exemptions?

The EPC compliance scheme only applies to England and Wales. In Scotland there are exceptions to the requirement for EPCs, however these exceptions are not registered or recorded by the City of Edinburgh Council. Therefore, this information is not held.

How many rented properties do you have on record with each EPC Grade?

To be clear, this is a breakdown for how many properties you have with each EPC Grade, ranging from A-G inclusive.

In Scotland, there is the Scottish EPC Register. The EPC compliance scheme only applies to England and Wales, therefore the City of Edinburgh Council does not hold a database of properties with an EPC, so cannot therefore provide this information, as it is not held.

How many HMO properties do you currently have registered as renting without a valid EPC?

The EPC compliance scheme only applies to England and Wales, therefore the City of Edinburgh Council does not hold a database of properties with an EPC and so cannot provide this information as it is not held.

Energy Efficiency:

Does your local authority offer support for landlords to upgrade their properties to be more energy efficient?

Please refer to guidance on financial help for energy efficiency and low carbon heating improvements, published on our website at:

https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/housing-support-advice/financial-help-energy-efficiency-low-carbon-heating-improvements

There is assistance offered to landlords from Home Energy Scotland. I have provided a link below:

https://www.homeenergyscotland.org/support-private-sector-landlords

a. If yes, what support is available? And what budget does your local authority allocate to this support?

As above, we provide guidance to support available. Where support is provided through our Mixed Tenure Improvement Service (MTIS), they would draw on grant funding for property upgrades.

Information about our MTIS is published on our website at:

https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/homepage/10504/mixed-tenure-improvement-service---repairing-your-neighbourhood

Does your local authority offer support for private-rented tenants to upgrade their properties to be more energy efficient?

Please refer to the link provided in A10.

a. If yes, what support is available? And what budget does your local authority allocate to this support?

As above, we provide guidance to support available. Please refer to A10a in relation to our Mixed Tenure Improvement Service.

Does your local authority offer support for private-rented tenants to support them to pay high energy bills?

There is no financial support offered for high energy bills.

Home energy advice is published on our website at:

https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/housing-support-advice/home-energy

a. If yes, what support is available? And what budget does your local authority allocate to this support?

Not applicable.

For the above, we are defining 'support' as including both any advisory and financial measures that your authority takes in reference to the people and subject of the questions.

Where data may be available to go alongside a response, please include this. If partial/only some information is available, please still share this information.