

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]  
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA070421-0173

22 April 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 7 April 2021. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked for:

*Can you please confirm whether or not landlords participating in the Housing Moves scheme are given guidelines on what homes they are able to refer to the scheme?*

*In particular are 'hard to let' properties permitted to be advertised and do landlords have a duty to disclose this information to the GLA?*

*Is the GLA aware of properties being 'hard to let' and is this data collected?*

*If so what number of homes in the last 24 months have been classed 'hard to let'.*

*If the GLA do not collect this information are participants of the Housing Moves scheme at a disadvantage and can this be classed as discriminatory?*

*Hard to let meaning*

- *Being advertised elsewhere unsuccessfully*
- *Properties irregular in layout or size*
- *Properties overlooking railways*
- *Properties with historic, chronic ongoing repair issues.*
- *'Sensitive lets' because of serious ASB or noise issues with neighbours.*
- *Higher than normal rates of tenancy turnover*

Our response to your request is as follows:

In response to your enquiries regarding hard to let properties being advertised on Housing Moves, the relevant extract from the Housing Moves policy states

5.2.1 Each year, each borough participating in Housing Moves will contribute the equivalent of five per cent of their relets of social rented homes to the scheme through the appropriate borough part of the Housing Moves website.

5.2.2 These properties:

- should reflect the same proportion of one bed homes, two bed homes and three bed homes as the profile of the borough's entire turnover of relets
- do not need to include four bed properties or larger as these are in very short supply across London.
- should include some wheelchair accessible or easily adaptable homes
- can include sheltered properties but only in the same proportion as the borough's overall lettings of sheltered properties
- must not include supported housing
- can be either social rent or Affordable Rent, but with the proportion of Affordable Rent no higher than it is among the borough's lettings as a whole

5.3.3 They are also strongly encouraged to include:

- at least one good quality photograph of the property
- a full description of the property
- a description of the local area, including transport links, schools and amenities.
- any other relevant information to enable applicants to make an informed choice whether to place a bid

As you will see there is no mention of hard to let properties, so landlords are not required to advise us of this when advertising homes. As you will see in policy section 5.3.3 above, we do encourage landlords to provide as much information as possible about properties to enable applicants to make an informed decision on whether to place a bid. As similar properties will also be advertised on local letting systems, we do not believe that Housing Moves applicants are disadvantaged as they can decide whether to bid and can withdraw bids or refuse viewings and/or offers if they are unhappy with any aspect of the property.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

  
**Information Governance Officer**

If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the GLA's FOI complaints and internal review procedure, available at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>