**Freedom of Information Act / Environmental Information Regulations Request**

Reference: ECC16648824 04 24  
Response: 24 April 2024

**The 1999 Immigration and Asylum Act introduced the policy of national dispersal. In a parliamentary question answered in December 2015, The Home Office confirmed that 99 local authorities have signed up to participate in the national dispersal arrangements at the time [1]. A report by The National Audit Office suggests that this number increased to 180 as of March 2020 (see page 45-46 in [2]).**

**As a research assistant at UCL’s political science department, I am working on a research project on the impact of national dispersal and am writing to request the data below.**

**Question 1. Specifically, I would like to request information about the date each non-metropolitan district under the county of Essex had officially notified the home office that they agree to participate in the national dispersal. Please**

**Provide all dates that are relevant starting in 1999. If the exact date is unavailable, it would be wonderful if you could provide an approximate day, month and/or year.**

**Question 2. At the same time, we also request information if any of these non-metropolitan districts later withdrew their participation in the arrangement (and when).**

**This information is being used to study how to create an equitable and high functioning dispersal policy in the uk.**

I can confirm that Essex County Council does not hold this information. ECC are not a Tier 2 Housing Authority, that responsibility sits within the jurisdiction of City, District and Borough Councils where this request should be directed. Under S.16 of the FOI Act it is our responsibility to assist and advise requesters, therefore we attach a contact list of all such councils within Essex for your use.

[Contact your local council | Essex County Council](https://www.essex.gov.uk/contact-your-local-council)

**Your Right to Know**

Democracy and Transparency

Essex County Council

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