**THIS IS NOW THE COMPLETE RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST**

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**Request Reference: 17181109**

**Date received: 16 October 2017**

**Date response sent: 15 November 2017**

With regard to the information provided below, housing benefit is paid to tenants and it is their responsibility to ensure their rent is paid. Direct payments to landlords are only put in place where there has been a formal request by the landlord/tenant where issues with payment of rent have occurred. Therefore the amount of money paid in housing benefit relates to the properties owned by the named members.

**I would like to request the following:**

**1. How much housing benefit has Torbay councillors James O’Dwyer and Ray Hill and Torbay mayor Gordon Oliver received for their tenants so far this year (January to October)? Please give separate figures for each individual.**

Mr James O Dwyer 2017 £14,949.19

Mr G Oliver 2017 Zero

Mr R Hill 2017 Zero

Please note that with regard to the amount awarded to tenants of Cllr O’Dwyer in 2017, the Council is seeking to recover a sum of money from one tenant and therefore the amounts for 2017 are likely to change.

**2. How much housing benefit has Torbay councillors James O’Dwyer and Ray Hill and Torbay mayor Gordon Oliver received for their tenants every year since 2015? Please give separate figures for each individual and each year.**

Mr James O’Dwyer 2015 £24,062.87 2016 £24,313.43

Mr G Oliver 2015 £2,857.14 2016 Zero

Mr R Hill 2015 Zero 2016 Zero

James O’Dwyer was not a Councillor prior to May 2015 and therefore some of the monies received would have been before he was a Cllr.

With regard to the amount of housing benefit awarded to tenants of the Mayor, the information above relates to a property that the Mayor was jointly responsible for. He no longer has an interest in this property.

**3. How much housing benefit has James O'Dwyer Properties received for its tenants so far this year (January to October)?**

**4. How much housing benefit has James O'Dwyer Properties received for its tenants every year since 2015? Please give separate figures for each year.**

See questions 1 and 2.