



Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Fol Response



16 October 2008

CMS Case Number: 103219

Thank you for letter of 20th September 2008 requesting information on free swimming for the over 60's.

You have asked for

- 1) A copy of the latest sitrep and progress against project targets.
- 2) Details of the London local authorities who are [are not] now 'on board' and fully committed and signed up to date to meet / comply with this initiative

You have also asked

- 3) Will this scheme allow over 60's to swim free at any pool ... that is at other than pools within their own LA (some LAs appear to have much better facilities and greater off peak 'spare' capacity)?

We are dealing with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act').

Under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000) you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you require
- be provided with that information

These rights may only be overridden if the information you are looking for is covered by an exemption in the Act.

We are pleased to provide you with information relating to your request.

- 1) DCMS has now written to local authorities informing them of their indicative allocations and setting out next steps for action. This information is available on the DCMS website. You can access this letter by following in link provided below.

[Letters to Local Authorities regarding the Government's Free Swimming Programme](#)

- 2) The Department for Culture Media and Sport holds the information you have requested, but under section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide information which is already reasonably accessible to you. The information you have requested is available on the DCMS website. Please find a link below to the page that contains the information you are looking for:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/media_releases/5162.aspx

You will find an alphabetical list of the Local Authorities that have signed up for free swimming for the over 60's and under 16's. These are expressed as "Pot 1" and "Pot 2" respectively in the "Letters to Local Authorities regarding the Government's Free Swimming Programme".

3) As the letter sets out, the scheme has no residency criteria. Free swimming for those of the eligible age means that people in that age group who wish to swim, at any time throughout the year (or out of school hours throughout the year for those aged 16 or under), when they would normally be admitted to the pool for public swimming, and in accordance with local programming, should not be charged for doing so.

DCMS does not hold information on individual Local Authority swimming facility listings and timetables. We suggest that you contact individual Local Authorities directly for this information.

If you are dissatisfied with any aspect of our response to your request for information and/or wish to appeal against information being withheld from you please send full details within two calendar months of the date of this letter to:

FOI Central Team,
Public Engagement and Recognition Unit
Department for Culture Media and Sport,
2-4 Cockspur Street, London,
SW1Y 5DH

You have the right to ask the Information Commissioner (ICO) to investigate any aspect of your complaint. Please note that the ICO is likely to expect internal complaints procedures to have been exhausted before beginning his investigation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Kind regards

Freedom of Information Officer
Freedom of Information Team