

COUNCIL – 27 JUNE 2017

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR N CLARKE TO COUNCILLOR N J RUSHTON

“In November 2016 the Government was defeated at the Supreme Court by two families who claimed " the bedroom tax is discriminatory ". This decision related to disabled people and their carers.

Can the portfolio holder confirm whether this decision has affected any families in North West Leicestershire. If so, how many, and have these families been properly reimbursed with back payment for the Government’s unlawful imposition of the "bedroom tax?"

RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR N J RUSHTON

“We are only aware of one case in North West Leicestershire affected by this decision.

The case involved a couple whose husband required a spare bedroom due to his disability. In April 2013 their appeal was dismissed in line with the regulations at that time.

Following the decision by the Supreme Court in November 2016, new regulations took effect from April 2017 and cases cannot be reimbursed for decisions prior to that date.

In this particular case, no reimbursement would have been payable even if it was allowed as the loss of benefit had been compensated through Discretionary Housing Payments until the couple’s income had increased sufficiently due to the award of Personal Independence Payments. It should also be noted that the couple moved out of our area in August 2016”.