



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam.

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: REQ06663**

Thank you for your request for information relating to rough sleepers.

You have requested the following information:

1. How many individual rough sleepers have been identified in your area during the calendar year 2019 (January to December)?

Coventry City Council estimate that approximately 200 different individuals were seen during 2019 by the Rough Sleeping team and Salvation Army outreach.

2. If known, how many individual rough sleepers have been identified in your area during the calendar years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018? Please provide an answer for any of those years for which you have data.

The Rough Sleeper Team came in effect during July 2019. The Salvation Army previously provided street outreach sessions in Coventry and encountered these numbers in the table below:

| Year | Number of people |
|------|------------------|
| 2017 | 116 |
| 2018 | 180 |

With regards to 2015 and 2016 data we can confirm that we do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. The Salvation Army have advised that that they no longer hold these records.

3. If available, how many of the rough sleepers identified during 2019 were found accommodation?

We only hold records since the Rough Sleeper Team started in July 2019 and confirm that 41 rough sleepers have been accommodated. We have no data for January to June 2019 and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act.

4. Please could you explain or link to what your authority does to identify rough sleepers and assist them to come off the streets.

When a member of the public sees someone rough sleeping they can inform us via the Street Link website (<https://www.streetlink.org.uk/>). This allows members of the public to inform Coventry City Council about the exact location of where a rough sleeper is bedded down, and the Outreach workers will go out and try to engage them. They will inform the rough sleeper what is available in terms of support and accommodation to help them change their circumstances and to find a place to live.

Coventry City Council distribute flyers to people rough sleeping or those who want to help. This provides current information about services available in Coventry, for instance, where to get a hot meal, how to access beds and shelters, assessments for housing and the local drop in Steps for Change where people can get support with housing, benefits, substance misuse, health, etc.

The Salvation Army provide over 20 rough sleeper beds each night for anyone rough sleeping and this is provided every day of the year.

The Coventry Winter Night Shelter is run by Hope Coventry and provides a bed, shelter, food, a shower, etc. to those rough sleeping, regardless of if they have no recourse to public funds. Over the winter we have sought funding to have a second shelter open alongside the Winter Night Shelter. Langar Aid House offer a further 20 beds each during some of the winter months. Coventry City Council want there to be an option for everyone that the Council encounters, particularly when the temperatures are low.

Coventry City Council have also sought extra funding to provide rough sleepers who, for whatever reason, do not access any of the above rough sleeper accommodation with a room at a B&B. Coventry City Council used this extensively over the Christmas period to provide some of our hardest to engage rough sleepers some respite and a good experience with some time indoors. This allowed Coventry City Council to engage with them in more depth and consequently we have accommodated several long-term and entrenched rough sleepers.

The Housing First programme provides an opportunity to gain a long-term tenancy with one of our local social landlords, with support from a worker for as long as they need to feel established and confident in the property. This programme has been established to support our most disengaged citizens to be given the chance to have a home and rebuild their life and we have housed 15 rough sleepers by the 13 January 2020.

5. Please note in the questions above I do not wish you to use your single autumn night snapshot figure that you provide to the government as part of the annual rough sleeping statistics published by MHCLG. I would like to know about the total number of individuals identified throughout the year. However, if you have that snapshot figure available and are willing to disclose it now, please do so in addition to answering the above questions, which cover individuals identified throughout the years.

Coventry City Council are not willing to disclose this information at this time.

The supply of information in response to a freedom of information request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email casework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours sincerely

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