



Information Governance
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Please contact Information Governance
Direct line 024 7697 5408
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Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: REQ07744**

Thank you for your request for information on the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme.

Your request and our responses are outlined below:

1a) Do you currently run a Local Welfare Assistance Scheme (LWAS)? This is the scheme – or schemes – introduced following the abolition of Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans for living expenses from 1 April 2013*.

***If no please proceed to answer question 3.**

Yes.

1b) If yes, what is the name or names of your scheme?

Community Support Grant (CSG) Scheme.

1c) If yes, what is your LWAS budget for the financial year 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021:

*** If you use the funding that would previously have been spent on LWAS in a different way, e.g. you use it to fund advice services etc. please use this space to summarise this approach and answer other questions as appropriate.**

£538,000.

2) We are seeking to establish the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on demand for Local Welfare Assistance Schemes. Please provide responses to the questions

below regarding the operations of your authority's Local Welfare Assistance scheme in the months of March to August 2020.

2a) What was your monthly expenditure on Local Welfare Assistance in each of the months between March and August, in 2019 and 2020 respectively?

MONTH	2019	2020
March	£31,923.16	£8,636.51
April	£20,839.62	£35,359.64
May	£19,195.56	£26,064.05
June	£21,012.31	£43,464.63
July	£22,675.68	£28,408.70
Aug	£36,326.39	£69,618.62

2b. How many local welfare assistance applications have you received in each of the months between March and August, in 2019 and 2020 respectively?

<u>Month</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
March	232	308
April	211	309
May	199	272
June	198	283
July	187	287
Aug	169	274

2c. How many awards and/or loans were granted in each of the months between March and August, in 2019 and 2020 respectively?

<u>Month</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
March	32	146
April	40	146
May	35	163
June	39	190
July	101	161
Aug	61	223

3. In June 2020, the government announced the Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant – additional funding for local authorities in England to use to support people who are struggling to afford food and other essentials due to COVID-19. Please answer the following questions on how your authority has utilised this additional funding:

3a. Of the additional funding made available to your authority through the Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant, how much was allocated to your Local Welfare Assistance Scheme budget?

Nothing allocated up front but will be used to top up the scheme if required.

3b. If your authority does not operate a local welfare assistance scheme, or if funding was used for other purposes, please detail what funds were utilised for, and the amount of the funding used for these purposes:

Not applicable.

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Should you wish to make any further requests for information, you may find what you are looking for is already published on the Council's web site and in particular its FOI/EIR Disclosure log, Council's Publication Scheme, Open Data and Facts about Coventry.

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 faithfully

Information Governance