



Public Health Department

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Date: 3rd March 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: REQ08157**

Thank you for your recent request for information. Your request has been considered under the above Act.

You have requested the following information:

Hong Kong Migrants gaining residency in Coventry

1. Please could you provide me with any data and documentation the council holds relating to Hong Kongers gaining (or attempting to gain) residency in your council's jurisdiction under the BNO visa resettlement scheme. This includes:

a. Any preparatory reports, policy/project proposals, impact assessments, and similar or related documentation that the council has prepared or commissioned relating to the scheme. If the council has not discussed, commissioned or prepared any documentation related to this scheme, please let me know.

b. Minutes (and links to recordings, if they're available online) of any council or committee meetings during which this scheme was discussed.

c. Figures regarding how many Hong Kongers have moved to live within your council's jurisdiction in the past 12 months (broken down by calendar month if possible), and how many are expected to try and obtain residency within your council's jurisdiction in the next 12 months. I understand that not all of this data may be available to you: please just provide what you can, and let me know what you can't, with a brief explanation.

Coventry is a city which welcomes people from all over the world and is home to a diverse population of people from many different ethnic groups, faiths and cultures.

The Council was notified in January 2021 by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), through correspondence marked Official Sensitive of the implementation of the Hong Kong British National (Overseas) visa scheme {BN (O)}. The Council is therefore aware of the potential for new arrivals from Hong Kong and the various expectations placed on potential participants to support their arrival in the UK.

Coventry has a small population of residents of the ethnic group Asian / British Asian: Chinese, but we have no data breaking this down to identify what proportion of this group has their origin in Hong Kong. MHCLG has identified 25 local authorities as being expected to receive the most BN(O) citizens and because of the size of the host population described, Coventry is not included in this list.

With regards to (a) therefore there are no reports or documents which fit this description that we are able to produce at the present time.

With regards to (b) there are no minutes of Council meetings at which this has been a matter for discussion that we are able to provide at the present time.

With regards to (c) the City Council does not hold data of this type for either former Hong Kong residents or other nationalities and therefore we are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. Information of this type that we do hold merely describes populations by continent (eg 'Asia') which provides challenges in monitoring the subject area of the information request. The Council engages with a network of voluntary and faith-based organisations who support refugees and other migrants in the city. The Council would expect to monitor presentations of migrants utilising the BN(O) visa scheme and respond to intelligence received as the operation of the new arrangements develops.

In summary the Council will welcome the arrival of former Hong Kong residents as it will those from other destinations and will seek to support such individuals, developing plans as greater clarity becomes evident regarding the size and needs of the people arriving in the city.

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.

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 sincerely

Liz Gaulton
Director of Public Health & Wellbeing