



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam.

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: FOI355024284**

Thank you for your request for information relating to COVID Local Support Grant and HAF Programme.

You have requested the following information:

1. Please could you complete the first tab of the attached spreadsheet with information relating to the number of children eligible for benefits-related free school meals in your local authority area at the census dates indicated.

The information you requested is being withheld as it falls under the exemption(s) in Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which relates to Information Intended for Future Publication.

The information can be viewed after November 2021 by going to <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/free-school-meals-autumn-term#subjectTabs-createTable>.

Please see the attached document.

In regards to the government's COVID Winter Grant Scheme (and the subsequent COVID Local Support Grant):

2. Please provide a statement summarising:

(a) how much funding was received by your local authority through these schemes, and

(b) how (if at all) you used this funding to provide food support to children eligible for benefits-related free school meals over each of the following time periods:

- **Christmas school holidays (21/12/20 - 1/01/21)**
- **February school half-term (15/02/21 - 19/02/21)**
- **Easter school holidays (29/03/21 - 9/04/21)**
- **Summer school half-term (31/05-21 - 4/06/21)**
- **Duration of the scheme**

Coventry City Council has received the following allocations for the grants in question:

- **Winter Grant Scheme £1,723,835.51**
- **Local Support Grant £304,144.00**

The Local Support Grant was extended beyond 04 June 2021 until 30 September 2021 and the allocation for the extension period was £1,216,576.13.

This funding was used to provide food support to children eligible for benefits related free school meals in three main ways. Firstly, vouchers were provided to school age children who were eligible or were about to become eligible for free school meals, to enable them to buy food during the school holidays. Secondly, children who were younger than school age but were identified as being in need of food support during school holidays were provided with funding to purchase food with. Finally, food parcels were provided by the city's network of food hubs to eligible families throughout the period of the grants.

3. Please complete the second tab of the attached spreadsheet answering the following questions (for each of the time periods listed):

- **How many children on benefit-related free school meals were given any support through the COVID Winter Grant Scheme/COVID Local Support Grant?**
- **How much of the COVID Winter Grant Scheme/COVID Local Support Grant funding was spent to provide food support to families with children?**
- **How many meals (or cash/voucher equivalent) were provided through the COVID Winter Grant Scheme/COVID Local Support Grant funding in total?**
- **How many children eligible for benefits-related free school meals were provided meals through the COVID Winter Grant Scheme/COVID Local Support Grant?**

Please see the attached document.

4. In regards to the Government's Holiday Activity and Food Programme:

a. Please provide a statement summarising:

(a) how much funding was received by your local authority through this scheme for the 2020/2021 academic year, and

As per Section 21 of the FOIA I can confirm that the information can be found at the link below:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1001998/Updated_HAF_grant_determination_-_9_July_2021.pdf

Please note that the allocations are financial years rather than academic years.

(b) how (if at all) you used the Holiday Activity and Food Programme funding to provide food support to children eligible for benefits-related free school meals over each of the following time periods:

- **Christmas school holidays (21/12/20 - 1/01/21)**

The Holiday Activity and Food Programme did not commence until Easter 2021.

- **Easter school holidays (29/03/21 - 9/04/21)**

Coventry City Council made available Home Activity and Healthy Breakfast packs, containing a range of breakfast items (estimated to provide 16 breakfasts) and four activity sets exploring the story, history and legacy of our City as we prepared to celebrate Coventry as the City of Culture 2021. The packs were packed and distributed by charities, Feed the Hungry UK and Feeding Coventry in collaboration with community organisations. Feed the Hungry worked with volunteers to pack the parcels and deliver them to 17 community centres and churches where families could attend to collect their pack in the days preceding the school Easter holidays.

- **Summer school holidays (22/07/21 - 31/08/21)**

The Holiday Activity and Food Programme funding is being used during the Summer school holidays (22 July 2021 – 31 August 2021) to provide grants to local providers to offer Holiday clubs and activities for children in receipt of benefits-related free school meals. In total, 36 organisations received a grant to co-ordinate Holiday Clubs at approximately 50 sites across the City. Among them are community groups, culture/arts organisations, sports clubs, faith groups, youth organisations, schools, specialist SEND providers and childcare providers. Activities are available every weekday during the school holidays.

- **Academic year 2020-21**

Please see details above.

3. Please complete the third tab of the attached spreadsheet answering the following questions (for each of the time periods listed):

- **How much of the funding received through the Holiday Activity and Food Programme was spent to provide food to children?**
- **How many meals (or cash/voucher equivalent) were provided through the Holiday Activity and Food Programme funding?**
- **How many children eligible for benefits-related free school meals were provided with meals through the Holiday Activity and Food Programme?**
- **How many children eligible for benefits-related free school meals but unable to partake in the offered activities were provided with meals through the Holiday Activity Food Programme?**
- **How many days of food and activity were provided for children eligible for benefit-related free school meals?**

Please see the attached document.

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 faithfully

Information Governance

	February	
	2021	June 2021
	(Spring	(Summer
November 2020	School	School
(Autumn School Census)	Census)	Census)

Number of children eligible for benefits-related free school meals in your local authority area

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/free-school-meals-autumn-term#subjectTabs-createTable>

	Christmas holidays (21/12/20 - 1/01/21)	Easter holidays (29/03/21 - 9/04/21)	Summer holidays (22/07/21 - 31/08/21) (Please answer questions with the planned amount allocated for this period)	In total for the 2020/2021 academic year
How much of the funding received through the Holiday Activity and Food Programme was spent to provide food to children?	N/A - The programme covers the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays in 2021.		£68,029.00	Summer 2021 Exact figures are not available since the programme has not yet finished and final cost breakdowns have not yet been submitted by providers for Summer 2021.
How many meals (or cash/voucher equivalent) were provided through the Holiday Activity and Food Programme funding?			50,784	Summer 2021. Exact figures are not available since the programme has not yet finished and final activity breakdowns have not yet been submitted by providers for Summer 2021.
How many children eligible for benefits-related free school meals were provided with meals through the Holiday Activity and Food Programme?			3,174	for Summer 2021. Exact figures are not available since the programme has not yet finished and numbers of children attending have not yet been submitted by providers for Summer 2021.
How many children eligible for benefits-related free school meals but unable to partake in the offered activities were provided with meals through the Holiday Activity Food Programme?		None - all meals provided were provided alongside activities.		Exact figures are not available since the programme has not yet finished and any instances of children receiving meals where they haven't partaken in activities have not yet been submitted by providers for Summer 2021.

How many days of food and activity were provided for children eligible for benefit-related free school meals?

Home Activity and Healthy Breakfast packs included four activity sets, prepared to provide children with approximately four hours of activity each day for four days, as required by the Holiday Activity and Food Programme grant conditions. Many of these activities were accessible online and as such could be accessed any day of the Easter Holidays.

Between all Holiday Clubs, operating the Coventry HAF programme in Summer 2021, there are 950 days where the clubs are open. At least one club is open every weekday of the Summer Holidays. (Please note that on a particular day, a club may be running two sessions with different cohorts of children at each).

	Christmas holidays (21/12/20 - 1/01/21)	February half-term (15/02/21 - 19/02/21)	Easter holidays (29/03/21 - 9/04/21)	Summer half-term (31/05- 21 - 4/06/21)	In total (for the duration of the scheme)	
How many children on benefit-related free school meals were given any support through the COVID Winter Grant Scheme/COVID Local Support Grant?	12,994	11,627	13,466	13,688	51,775	Please note that these numbers are based on the number of school aged children who received vouchers in the school holidays. These are closely aligned to FSM eligibility, however, schools were given a small amount of flexibility as to who they could issue vouchers to to allow vouchers to be sent to pupils who were about to become eligible but were not officially eligible at the time of issue.
How much of the COVID Winter Grant Scheme/COVID Local Support Grant funding was spent to provide food support to families with children?	£441,973.10	£202,681.65	£504,736.58	£230,889.97	£1,545,987.16	Please note that the total is not the total of the 4 holiday periods. The total also includes the number of food parcels issued to families with children. These parcels were issued throughout the life of the scheme and as such do not fit into the 4 holiday periods requested.
How many meals (or cash/voucher equivalent) were provided through the COVID Winter Grant Scheme/COVID Local Support Grant funding in total?	14,882	13,515	15,354	15,436	66,787	Please note that the total is not the total of the 4 holiday periods. The total also includes the number of food parcels issued to families with children. These parcels were issued throughout the life of the scheme and as such do not fit into the 4 holiday periods requested.
How many children eligible for benefits-related free school meals were provided meals through the COVID Winter Grant Scheme/COVID Local Support Grant?	12,994	11,627	13,466	13,688	51,775	Please note that these numbers are based on the number of school aged children who received vouchers in the school holidays. These are closely aligned to FSM eligibility, however, schools were given a small amount of flexibility as to who they could issue vouchers to to allow vouchers to be sent to pupils who were about to become eligible but were not officially eligible at the time of issue.