



**Information Governance Team**

Postal Address:  
Coventry City Council  
PO Box 15  
Council House  
Coventry  
CV1 5RR

[www.coventry.gov.uk](http://www.coventry.gov.uk)

E-mail: [infogov@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:infogov@coventry.gov.uk)

Phone: 024 7697 5408

01 February 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**

**Request ID: FOI390030621**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Household Support Fund.

You have requested the following information:

**I would be grateful if you could please provide the following information on the Household Support Scheme as of 31st December:**

**1. The total amount of funding allocated to you from the Household Support Fund.**

£3,224,222.30.

**2. The total amount of this funding that you allocated to be spent on vulnerable households with children.**

Coventry City Council are following the DWP Household support fund guidance which states that at least 50% of the total funding will be ring-fenced to support households with children, with up to 50% of the total funding to other households genuinely in need of support this winter.

**3. If any funding was given directly to local charities, services or community groups, the total of this amount and the names of the organisations it was given to.**

Funding is not being given to third parties except to reimburse for support given. For example Coventry Food network are reimbursed for every food parcel awarded by Community Support to applicants.

**4. The criteria you determined for eligibility to the scheme (e.g. must be in receipt of certain benefits, have less than a certain amount of savings).**

Coventry City Council are following the DWP guidance and providing support to households in the most need with food, energy and water bills. We are supporting households with essential costs related to those items and with wider essential costs. The DWP criteria covers a wide range of vulnerable households including those with children of all ages and those without children. Eligibility is not dependent upon receipt of any benefit and any resident of Coventry can apply.

**5. The format in which support from the Fund is provided (e.g. voucher, bank transfer, buying items directly for individuals) and any stipulations on what it must be spent on (e.g. vouchers for food or for fuel bills).**

Applicants to the scheme may receive support with fuel in the form of a Paypoint Voucher. Food support is provided by the direct provision of a food parcel(s) to applicants. Families in receipt of free school meals have also been supported with vouchers to purchase food during the school holidays (Christmas and February half term). Help with wider household essential includes Tesco's vouchers to purchase warm clothing and blankets and we also provide essential household appliances i.e. fridges and cookers directly including installation of the appliances. Other support has included provision of carpets and car repairs all within the remit of the Household Support Fund.

**6. If those determined as eligible for the scheme were automatically provided with support from the Fund or if they were required to apply.**

We require an application to be made by individuals/families for support either over the telephone or online except for funds determined to be used to support things like Vouchers for free school meal recipients over Christmas. Details of how to apply can be found using the link below:

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/council-democracy/services-disrupted-coronavirus/8#localsupportgrantscheme>

**7. The date at which applications opened for support from the Fund.**

6th October 2021.

**8. The total number of applications received for support from the Fund.**

A total of 1,660 applications received to date.

**9. The total number of applications that were approved.**

737 – Please note that some applications we receive do not require support in the sense of an award for food, fuel or any other household essential item but this figure (737) is the total number of applications receiving an award. Applications are received from customers requiring other support i.e. help completing a Homefinder application. These would not be classed as “approved” as no award made however the customer still received support. This figure also does not include the families that are in receipt of the free school meals support as they are automatically identified from data the Council holds and provided with awards.

**10. If applications are now closed, the date at which they closed.**

The Household support fund scheme runs until the 31st March 2022.

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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](mailto: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 [icocasework@ico.org.uk](mailto:icocasework@ico.org.uk).

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

Yours faithfully

**Information Governance**