



Information Governance Team

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01 February 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI389938704

Thank you for your request for information relating to Homelessness.

You have requested the following information:

1. Is the Council, or has the Council ever been, signed up to the Rough Sleeping Support Service?

No.

2. Since January 1st 2018, how many non-British homeless people have been referred by the Council to the Home Office, under the Rough Sleeping Support Service?

None.

3. Does the Council use the power under s206(2) Housing Act 1996 to charge homeless people for temporary accommodation?

Yes.

4. Does the Council hold any policies or internal guidance documents relating to charges for temporary accommodation, including on what constitutes a 'reasonable' charge in relation to s206(2) Housing Act 1996. If so, what is the content of the policies of guidance?

Yes, the Temporary Accommodation (TA) Charging Policy was approved by Cabinet at their meeting on 10th March 2020. This is accessible to you via the Council website, please use the following link:-

<https://edemocracy.coventry.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=124&MID=11950>

We therefore do not have to provide the information as per Section 21 of the FOIA.

All households placed in TA make an application for housing benefit. If they have 'excess income' and therefore receive only partial payment or no payment of housing benefit, they are expected to pay, capped at the LHA rate.

5. If the Council has charged homeless people for temporary accommodation, please provide information on the following for the past calendar year:

a. The number of people charged.

For the calendar year 2021, 126 households were charged for all or part of the licence fee, and 93 were charged for removals/storage.

b. The total income received by the Council from any charges.

£287,281.54 (since the implementation of the policy).

c. How many people paid such charges directly to the Council, rather than via charges taken directly from Universal Credit or other social security entitlements.

See response to Question 5a.

d. What, if any, is the total outstanding debt owed to the Council for temporary accommodation charges currently owed?

£165,642.28 (this includes debt relating to the licence fee and also removals/storage of furniture - since the implementation of the policy)

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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 icocasework@ico.org.uk.

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

Yours faithfully

Information Governance