



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI608463566

Thank you for your request for information relating to bidding for properties: choosing locations within Coventry.

You have requested the following information:

I am writing to ask if you can send me a copy of Coventry City Council's policy on finding onward accommodation for people currently in temporary accommodation.

Specifically, is there scope within the policy for a family, (with a child/children under 16), to specify the preferred location of housing to ensure that they are able to maintain their existing school and employment commitments, as well as social connections?

I have read your published choice-based lettings policy, Coventry Homefinder, which suggests to me that applicants are able to 'bid' for a house, in a location of their choice. In cases where bids are made through auto-bidding, bids are placed on suitable properties on behalf of the applicant, but I cannot see anything about how that suitability is defined - e.g., taking into account a family's ability to maintain their access school/employment.

Applicants who have been assessed as being owed the Main Housing Duty under Section 193(2) of the Housing Act 1996 must be made an offer of suitable housing by the council. This could be privately rented housing, or social housing (which in Coventry is allocated through Homefinder – those who are owed the Main Duty are placed on 'auto-bidding'). This is an offer made under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996, and the legislation and statutory guidance provide the framework for determining whether an offer is 'suitable'. One aspect which must be considered is the location of the property.

The guidance relating to location and suitability can be found in Chapter 17 of the Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities, available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homelessness-code-of-guidance-for-local-authorities/chapter-17-suitability-of-accommodation>

The authority can also end the Prevention Duty or Relief Duty with an offer of suitable settled accommodation however, it is not a requirement to make an offer of accommodation at these stages. Applicants under these duties who are also registered with Homefinder can place their own bids. Any offers of accommodation to discharge these duties are also subject to the same suitability criteria as described in the Code of Guidance.

The supply of information in response to a FOI/EIR 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.

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 icocasework@ico.org.uk.

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

Yours faithfully

Information Governance