



## Information Governance Team

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06 June 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

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

**Request ID: FOI612200369**

Thank you for your request for information relating to victims of domestic abuse presented to Housing Department.

You have requested the following information:

#### **1. How many victims of domestic abuse presented to your housing department requesting to be added to your housing register due to their emergency, in the last 12 months to date 20-3-2024**

We hold the information which you have asked for, but we have estimated that the cost of meeting your request would exceed the cost limit of £450 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations 2004). This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours or more, in determining whether the information is held, locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Our reporting system will only allow reporting on the higher-level reasons for the banding – for example 'social and welfare issues' or 'statutory homeless'. This means that we are unable to show how many of the households on the Coventry Homefinder register are victims of domestic abuse, as these higher-level categories contain other priority groups as well. Whilst we hold the information, these details will be recorded within the 'notes' sections of the case files and would require manual intervention by an officer to review each record to determine what information is held and collate the relevant data.

This has been estimated to exceed the 18-hour limit under the Act. Therefore, this part of your

request has been refused under section 12(2) of the Act.

**2. How many victims were excepted onto the housing register in the first instance, in the same 12 month period**

Please refer to Question 1.

**3. How many victims of domestic abuse were placed in the first instance, within temporary or interim accommodation in your area in the same 12 month period**

During the 12 months to 20-03-2024, there were 303 households placed into temporary accommodation where the main reason for the loss of their last settled home was recorded as domestic abuse (victim).

**4. How many victims of domestic abuse were placed in a women's refuge within your area in the first instance, in the same 12 month period**

**5. How many victims of domestic abuse were placed on the national refuge waiting list in the first instance, in the same 12 month period**

For Questions 4 and 5, the response is nil.

**6. How many victims of domestic abuse have been permanently housed within your area, in the same 12 month period**

For households that approached the council as homeless, and the reason for the loss of their last settled home was domestic abuse (victims):

- Eight that were owed the Prevention Duty, had that duty ended during the 12-month period by securing their existing accommodation (four) or by securing alternative accommodation (four)
- 77 that were owed the Relief Duty had that duty ended during the 12-month period by securing accommodation.
- 100 that were owed the Main Duty (known as statutorily homeless) had that duty ended during the 12 month period as they accepted an offer of accommodation (94 accepted an offer of social housing, 6 accepted an offer of private rented housing)

We are unable to provide how many households were allocated housing from the Coventry Homefinder register who were victims of domestic abuse and who did not make a homelessness application and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act.

We are unable to provide how many victims of domestic abuse were housed within the Coventry area by other Local Authorities and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act.

**7. How many victims of domestic abuse were not able to be excepted on your housing register, in the same 12 month period**

We confirm that we do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the

Act. We do not record this information.

**8. What were the housing cost to your council overall, for all the victims of domestic abuse that presented to your council in their emergency, in the same 12 month period**

We are not able to separate the costs associated with victims of domestic abuse. We are therefore advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act that this information is not recorded.

**9. How much was the total amount of money spent from your household support funds to support victims in the same 12 month period? please use the same question if you have the government cost of living fund under a different name (i.e. flexible support fund / hardship fund and any other name used to describe the funding)**

£92,281.46 of Household Support Fund allocation was spent 20/03/2023 – 20/03/2024 for awards where applicants have indicated that they have been victims of domestic abuse.

**10. How long was the average wait time, and longest wait time in refuge, before the housing department were able to provide temporary accommodation within your area in the same 12 month period**

Temporary accommodation for those that need it and where there is a duty under the Housing Act 1996 for the council to provide it, is provided on the day that it is required. This may be on the day that the applicant contacts the council for homelessness advice or at any point during the homelessness assessment process. If the applicant requires temporary accommodation in an emergency outside of office hours, the Emergency Duty Team will place them in short term accommodation (for example, a hotel or B&B) and the Accommodation Team will contact them on the next working day to provide more suitable temporary accommodation.

**11. Were any victims of domestic abuse deferred to another council when placed out of area in a women's refuge, after attempting to join your housing register in the same 12 month time period**

If a victim of domestic abuse was placed in a refuge in another local authority area, and wished to join Coventry's housing register, they would be able to do so as long as they met the other eligibility requirements to join the register (the Homefinder Policy does not place a local connection restriction on victims of domestic abuse).

**12. Do you have any social housing in your area prioritised for victims of domestic abuse?**

There are no specific social housing properties prioritised for victims of domestic abuse, nor a quota of properties allocated through Coventry Homefinder. Victims of domestic abuse are prioritised on the register using the banding system.

**13. Were victims of domestic abuse prioritised on your housing register under the banding or points system, under the domestic abuse needs assessment? if not, what were the status or banding prioritised under? please list the other needs assessment status.**

Victims of domestic abuse are prioritised on the register using the banding system. The Coventry Homefinder Policy Banding system is explained here:

**14. How many victims of domestic abuse that joined your housing register, made an official housing complaint in the same 12 month period?**

Please refer to Question 8.

**15. How many Council homes, or affordable homes do you manage in your area?**

Coventry City Council no longer owns or manages any 'council housing' after the transfer of all council housing stock to Whitefriars Housing Group (now Citizen) in 2000.

**16. How many people or families do you have on your waiting list housing register?**

There are currently 9,183 households registered with Coventry Homefinder (as at 3rd June 2024).

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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**