



Information Governance Team

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

www.coventry.gov.uk

E-mail: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

Phone: 024 7697 5408

01 October 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI643783764

Thank you for your request for information relating to Homeless Applications & Interim Accommodation.

We hold some of 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.

We estimate that because some of the information is not held in a reportable amount. We have estimated that the manual work to extract the data would exceed 18 hours. Your request has been refused under section 12(2) of the Act.

However, in order to fulfil our obligations under Section 16 of the FOI Act to advise and assist you, we advise that we can provide the following information.

Homeless Applications and Interim Accommodation:

1. Over the past twelve months, how many people have made a homeless application to the Council?

From 21st September 2023 to 20th September 2024, 4486 households made a homelessness application to Coventry City Council.

2. Over the past twelve months, how many people have been provided with interim

accommodation pursuant to Section 188(1) of the Housing Act 1996?

3. Over the past twelve months, how many people have been provided with interim accommodation pursuant to Section 189(b) of the Housing Act 1996?

Regarding Questions 2 and 3, our case management system does not record the specific duty that someone has been placed into interim/temporary accommodation under, so we are unable to provide details based on the specific duties. We are therefore advising you as per Section 1(1) of the FOI Act.

However, the total number of households who were placed into interim/temporary accommodation between 21st September 2023 and 20th September 2024 was 1787. This includes placements made under all of the relevant duties and powers to provide interim/temporary accommodation in the Housing Act 1996. To provide the specific information would require an officer to check each placement made which would be over the 18 hours (See Section 12 of the FOIA - Cost of Compliance).

4. Over the past twelve months, what was the total cost of providing interim accommodation?

Our finance system does not record the specific duty that someone has been placed into interim/temporary accommodation under, therefore we are unable to provide details based on the specific duties.

However, the total the total cost for all temporary accommodation for the period October 2023 – September 2024 is £11,716,188. To provide the specific information would require an officer to check each placement made which would be over the 18 hours allowed (See Section 12 of the FOIA - Cost of Compliance).

a. What proportion of this cost was paid to Travelodge and/or any of its parent companies/subsidiaries?

Approximately 0.37% of the total spend on temporary accommodation between October 2023 and September 2024 was paid to Travelodge.

b. What was the total amount paid to Travelodge and/or its related entities over the past twelve months?

The total paid by the Council to Travelodge in the period October 2023 – September 2024 was £43,191.

Temporary Accommodation Expenditure and Associated Costs:

5. What has been the total expenditure on interim temporary accommodation (e.g., Travelodge, B&Bs) for homeless individuals over the past three financial years?

Our finance system does not record the specific duty that someone has been placed into interim/temporary accommodation, therefore we are unable to provide details based on the specific duties.

However, the total the total (net) cost for all temporary accommodation for each of the last three financial years was:

2021/22 - £4,967,000

2022/23 - £9,105,944

2023/24 - £12,869,886

6. Please provide a breakdown of these costs by location, including the number of placements made outside the borough.

We are unable to provide a breakdown of costs by location as our financial management system does not make the distinction between in-borough and out-of-borough costs. To provide the specific information would require an officer to check each placement made which would be over the 18 hours allowed.

We can provide the number of placements made inside and outside of the borough over the past three financial years as below:

Year	Number of placements in Coventry	Number of placements outside of Coventry
2021/22	1997	11
2022/23	2333	160
2023/24	2930	354

Please note, this is the number of placements, not the number of households – some households may have been moved during their time in temporary accommodation so may be counted more than once in the figures. Households placed outside of Coventry are brought back into accommodation in Coventry as soon as it becomes available, as long as it is safe and suitable to do so.

7. What has been the total expenditure on affiliated costs such as storage, taxis, and other related services for individuals placed in temporary accommodation outside the borough over the past three financial years?

We are unable to provide the information for out-of-borough placements, as our financial management system does not make the distinction between in-borough and out-of-borough costs. To provide the information would require an officer to access each file (over the 18 hour limit).

8. Please provide details of these costs by category (e.g., storage, transportation, etc.) and location.

Please see response to question 7.

Protection of Personal Property for Homeless Applicants:

9. Over the past twelve months, how many homeless applicants have had their personal property protected by the local authority?

Over the past 12 months, 67 households have had their property protected (stored) by Coventry City Council whilst in interim/temporary accommodation.

10. What is the average length of time that a homeless applicant's personal property is stored by the local authority?

The average length of time that a homeless applicant's personal property is stored is 627 days.

11. What is the average cost of storing a homeless applicant's personal property while they are in interim accommodation?

The average cost of storing a homeless applicant's personal property is £3.44 per day.

12. Under what circumstances does the local authority protect the personal property of

homeless applicants?

Coventry City Council protects the personal property of homeless applicants in line with the guidance in the Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities

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

13. As part of the homeless application process, does the local authority expressly ask the homeless applicant whether they need their personal property protected?

Yes.

a. If not, please state the reasons why this question is not asked.

Not applicable.

14. Please provide copies of the local authority's policies regarding homeless applications.

Coventry City Council follows the Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities when exercising its functions relating to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Please see the link below:

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

We therefore do not need to provide this information as per Section 21 of the Act.

15. Please provide a copy of the local authority's policy regarding the protection of the personal property of homeless applicants.

Coventry City Council protects the personal property of homeless applicants in line with the guidance in the Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities:

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

Information on the Council's policy regarding charging for storage is available on the website here:

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/housing-1/temporary-accommodation-charges>

We therefore do not need to provide this information as per Section 21 of the Act.

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