

Request 8920 Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs)

I am writing to make a Freedom of Information request concerning your Council's expenditure on Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) for the 2019/20 financial year.

I am aware some information on DHPs is submitted to the Department for Work & Pensions in its analysis of End of Year returns from local authorities. This includes the total number of awards, DHP financial expenditure and Government contribution original allocation. These monitoring returns provide details of the purpose of the DHP award, such as to secure and move to alternative accommodation and rental costs, split by the welfare form for which households have been affected.

What is not included in this information is the amount and value of DHPs applied for which are not awarded, or if only partial amounts are given. I am requesting this information, as detailed in Table 1 below, and also request splits of this data by the age band of the claimant. If possible, please can the figures just for those where the claimant is aged between 16 and 30 be provided.

Separately, I am requesting information on your Council's use of rent guarantee schemes: these are typically used to help people facing homelessness by providing a written guarantee to the landlord to cover any unpaid rent/damage. The information I require is written below, but also in a Table 2:

- Total amount of rent guarantees issued in 2019/20
 - How many rent guarantees were issued to care leavers
 - Age bands of those issued rent guarantees

I would like to receive this information digitally.

Response

Thank you for your request for information above. The appropriate department are dealing with your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000. Some of the information has been provided but for the information that has not been provided, from their preliminary assessment they estimate that to locate, retrieve and extract the information would exceed the 'appropriate limit' set for local government at £450 which represents 18hrs of one staff member.

Section 12 of the FOI Act provides a refusal exemption on this basis. We invite you to refine your request, by specifying the information you particularly wish to obtain, including any dates or period of time relevant to the information required, as we would like to assist by attempting to provide you with some of the information required within the cost limit.

Response

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I am requesting this information, as detailed in Table 1 below, and also request splits of this data by the age band of the claimant.

If possible, please can the figures just for those where the claimant is aged between 16 and 30 be provided.

For the financial year 2019-20 84 DHP applications were refused and no amounts were given.

I am unable to readily provide data on partial amounts that were awarded.

I am unable to readily provide further breakdowns of this data based on age.

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The information I require is written below, but also in a Table 2: • Total amount of rent guarantees issued in 2019/20 o How many rent guarantees were issued to care leavers o Age bands of those issued rent guarantees I would like to receive this information digitally.

For 2019-2020 we made 47 referrals and moved in 17 of these through our RDS. The Rent deposit Scheme we run is through a 3rd party for us. I have enclosed a link to all the [information on this](#).

We don't hold records on the breakdown of the age brackets/care leavers these may have been processed.

Alternatively, you may choose to pay the fee for work to be undertaken to answer your request. This charge will be calculated in accordance with section 13 of the FOI Act and the Freedom of Information Fees Regulations and is required prior to work commencing so please let us know and we will inform you of the fee.

Please be aware that we cannot progress with this request until you respond to the points above, and note the 20 working day time frame we work within, will not include the period awaiting your response to this message. This request will be considered closed, if after 2 months we have not received communication from you.

