

FOI number: **HBC_FOI_2019149**
Date FOI Received: **15/02/2019**
Department: **Housing**
Title: **Homelessness Reduction Act FOI**
Description: **The number of people who have approached the authority and been supported with homelessness reduction since 1 April 2018 (to 15 February 2019).**

Request: *(As Redacted sent by requestor)*

Hi,

I'm writing to you to request information held under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am hoping to find out:

1. How many people have approached the local authority stating that they are threatened with homelessness since 1 April 2018?
2. How many people have been owed the prevention duty since 1 April 2018?
3. How many people have the local authority prevented the person being homeless?
4. How many people have approached the local authority stating that they are homeless since 1 April 2018?
5. How many people have been owed the relief duty since 1 April 2018?
6. How many people have the local authority relieved of being homeless?
7. How much money has been allocated to the local authority for financial year 2018/19 to enable the local authority to comply with their new homeless reduction act duties?

This request should cover data from April 1 2018 to February 15 2019 and broken down to monthly figures if possible.

I look forward to your response to **<REDACTED>**

Response: *(Response as Redacted sent by service)*

I can report that since the Homelessness Reduction Act came into effect on 3rd April 2018, we've had:

1. 456 applicants approach us as being threatened with homelessness;
2. Of these, 392 applicants were owed the Prevention duty; and
3. We have been able to prevent homelessness in approx. 170 cases;
4. 136 applicants approach our Service stating they are homeless;
5. 358 applicants owed the Relief duty (this figure comprises of cases that rolled into the Relief duty from the Prevention stage, and those presenting as homeless on the day!);
6. Approximately 120 cases where homelessness has been relieved under the Relief duty.

I can also confirm that we do not have information on the amount allocated to this Local Authority for the financial year 2018/2019, towards meeting the requirements of the Homelessness Reduction Act. Having said this, as a Council, and in line with the aims of our homelessness strategy, we have been proactive in submitting bids for additional funding to tackle rough sleeping in our district. To this aim, we recently received a pot of funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government specifically, towards making emergency shelter provisions available for rough sleepers in our district, during extreme spells of cold weather. This Severe Weather Emergency Provision Policy is activated when there is severe weather and designed to prevent deaths or serious illness on the streets during periods of particularly inclement weather conditions.

The provision is available for those who would not normally be eligible for temporary accommodation, including people evicted from temporary accommodation or those who do not have access to public funds. To qualify, an individual must be sleeping rough, which does not include 'sofa-surfing' or staying with friends and must have a connection to Hertsmere.

We have also been successful in bidding for additional funds to enhance our uptake of private rented sector properties. We are hoping this would help boost our homelessness prevention, relief and private rented sector discharge of duty activities.

If you have any queries about the processing of your request then please do not hesitate to contact me. Further information explaining the Council's process for responding to information requests together with a complaints/appeals procedure is available in our reception or via our website at:

<https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Your-Council/Official-Publications--Guides--Policies/Access-to-Information.aspx>

The Information Commissioner oversees the application of the Freedom of Information Act. You may contact the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House, Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545700
Website: www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please include the above reference number on all correspondence related to this request.

Thank you for your request.

Kind regards

Information Services