

FOI number: **HBC_FOI_20200393**
Date FOI Received: **06/07/2020**
Department: **Housing**
Title: **Rough sleeper accommodation COVID-19**
Description: **Rough sleeper accommodation plan during COVID-19**

Request: (As Redacted sent by requestor)

As you are aware, the Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing, Luke Hall MP, sent a letter to all Local Authority Chief Executives in England on 28 May 2020, with the subject of 'Moving onto the next phase of accommodating rough sleepers'.

In this letter Mr Hall stated: *"I am now asking that you put in place a plan of support for all rough sleepers accommodated in hotels and other forms of emergency accommodation during the response to the pandemic"*. In reference to this plan he said: *"We are asking for these initial plans to be set out by 11 June"*.

We would be grateful if you would provide us with a copy of your authority's 'initial plan' (i.e. the plan that your authority set out by 11 June, or any later date if relevant, in line with the request made in Mr Hall's letter). We would like to receive this plan in whatever form it took. We would also be grateful if you would provide us with any updates your authority may have made to its plan since 11 June. Please share your authority's plan(s) excluding any information which could be considered personal information under the Data Protection Act 2018. This information will be used for Shelter's research and work around homelessness during COVID-19. The research will help us and Shelter to understand the different ways that local authorities are responding to the current situation and to help influence national policy.

Response: (Response as Redacted sent by service)

Whilst we do not have a formal report available to send, I have provided the relevant information below:

Rough sleepers will be visited by the Police to verify their rough sleeping status and support the individual to contact the local authority. At this stage, we would make a decision on accommodating and the most appropriate accommodation for the client, considering their health needs, which will take the form of either hotels or temporary accommodation provider accommodation. For those in hotels, food packages would be arranged on a daily basis to ensure they are able to isolate.

We will continue to support all clients placed under the Covid-19 'Everyone In' scheme with an emphasis on securing longer-term accommodation either through the Council's Housing Register or via private rented accommodation. This work continues as of the time of responding.

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