



Information Governance

Coventry City Council
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Please contact Information Governance
Direct line 024 7683 3323
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10 May 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: REQ02596**

Thank you for your request for information relating to food banks and welfare assistance or crisis payments for food costs.

Please can I have the total number of recorded food bank referrals made by all council staff for every year from 2007-2017?

Revenue & Benefits Team, Food Bank voucher referrals (by financial year 1st April to 31st March):

2013	253
2014	245
2015	167
2016	89

Please note the information provided in relation to food bank vouchers are the number given out by the Revenues and Benefits Team only. We are unable to provide information for all Council staff across the Council as this information is not held in one place.

We do not have records as far back as 2007 and are therefore advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act.

To advise and assist you further you may wish to approach the Food Bank in Coventry directly for further information: <https://coventry.foodbank.org.uk/>

Please can I have the number of residents awarded welfare assistance or crisis payments to specifically assist with basic food costs? Please can I have a breakdown of this information for each year between 2008-2017?

Crisis paid application made by the Benefit Service from the Community Support Grant Scheme (by financial year – 1st April to 31st March):

2013	1440
2014	1224
2015	605
2016	995

In respect of welfare assistance or crisis payments for basic food costs, this was only relevant to the Benefit Service when Community Support Grants were introduced in 2013. We do not give food payments but we do issue Tesco cards to be spent on food.

We therefore do not hold any information prior to 2013 and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act.

In regards to information provided by all Council staff, we are unable to provide this as this information is not held in one place across the council. For example Children’s social care may help families with emergency food and this could be supported through purchasing cards by a member of staff or petty cash. We do not report on this and are therefore advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act.

The supply of information in response to a Freedom of Information 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.

Should you wish to make any further requests for information, you may find what you are looking for is already published on the [Council’s web site](#) and in particular its [FOI/EIR Disclosure log](#), [Council’s Publication Scheme](#), [Open Data](#) and [Facts about Coventry](#).

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 casework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

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