

Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam.

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: REQ06094**

Thank you for your request for information relating to payments to landlords and caseload.

You have requested the following information:

- 1. For each year (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 to date), on how many occasions did the local authority pay a private landlord a monetary incentive to house a client who had approached the authority as homeless or threatened with homelessness?**
- 2. For each year (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 to date), how much money did the local authority pay to private landlords in incentives to house clients who had approached as homeless or threatened with homelessness?**

For questions 1 and 2 we hold 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.

The information is not available in an existing report. Therefore, in order to provide the information, an officer will have to examine each relevant invoice. In April 2019 alone, the Council had over 1,000 invoices, consequently, the time needed to examine all relevant invoices for the past 5-10 years will exceed 18 hours.

This part of your request has therefore been refused under section 12(2) of the Act.

3. Across the whole of 2018 only, what was the highest individual incentive the local authority paid to a private landlord to house a client who had approached as homeless or threatened with homelessness?

£1,000.

4. How much did the council spend (broken down by year, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 to date) on:

a. Discretionary housing payments

We advise that for the years 2009 and 2010, we do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. The information has passed the retention period.

See below for the remaining years which were requested:

Year	Spend
2011	£132,851.17
2012	£410,445.34
2013	£813,787.00
2014	£831,351.00
2015	£635,880.02
2016	£768,921.83
2017	£1,162,316.91
2018	£1,012,456.14
2019 (as of 13 th September)	£813,787.00

b. If the Council has a Bond and Rent guarantee scheme/Tenancy Deposit scheme, how much was spent each year?

N/A. The Council does not currently run any of these schemes.

5. For each year (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 to date) how much did the local authority pay to house people in temporary accommodation?

For 2009 to 2018 we can confirm that we hold this information and it is accessible to you via the Council website, please use the following links:

For 2009 to 2013:

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/file/14177/20123059>

For 2013 to 2018:

https://www.coventry.gov.uk/directory_record/36670/temporary_accommodation_spend_2013_-_2018

We therefore do not have to provide the information as per Section 21 of the FOIA.

2018/19 financial year: £1.285m.

6. Please provide:

a. The total number of FTE Housing support staff employed by the council

There are currently 21 FTE housing solutions officers employed by Coventry City Council.

b. The total number of live housing cases as at 1 August 2019 - (or other suitable chosen date)

These officers, plus part time and agency staff, are currently operating a caseload of 811 households.

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.

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 casework@ico.org.uk.

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

Yours sincerely

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