



Information Governance Team

Postal Address:
Coventry City Council
PO Box 15
Council House
Coventry
CV1 5RR

www.coventry.gov.uk

E-mail: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

Phone: 024 7697 5408

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: FOI336277718

Thank you for your request for information relating to Local Welfare Assistance Scheme.

You have requested the following information:

1. How much was spent on local welfare assistance in the financial year 2020/21 (including administration costs and any additional Government funding such as the Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies or the Covid Winter Grant Scheme)?

Revenues and Benefits administer the Community Support Grant and the figures for this area of Local Welfare provision are as follows:

Direct Grants to customers: £556,025

Administration Costs: We are not able to provide a figure in respect of administration costs as the team that administer Community Support Grants also administer several other benefits and grants.

2. What percentage of the overall expenditure was spent on administration costs as opposed to direct grants in 2020/21?

Please see above response to Question 1.

3. What percentage of the overall expenditure was spent on the provision of furniture and/or white goods in 2020/21?

92%

4. What were the number of completed applications to the scheme in 2020/21?

4,103

5. How many were successful in 2020/21?

1,903

6. If an applicant is not successful, do you direct them to other sources of help? If yes, please specify.

Yes, Coventry City Council directs unsuccessful applicants to the social fund and to charities.

7. If you do provide furniture and/or white goods, what percentage of these items are provided as:

a. New items

90%

b. Preloved/reused items

10%

c. A loan for furniture/white goods

d. Cash for furniture/white goods

e. Other (please specify)

If you do not know the exact percentage then please provide an estimate.

For Questions 7c to 7e, these are all 0%.

8. Do you require applicants to have attempted other sources of support or take out an advance on their benefits before you will accept an LWAS application? If yes, please specify. It is not a blanket requirement.

Each individual case is considered on its own merits.

9. What is the local welfare assistance scheme budget in your local authority for the financial year 2021/22 (including any additional funding above and admin costs etc.)?

£495,423

10. If you will have a scheme in 2021/22, what percentage of the budget is drawn from your core spending power and what percentage is being drawn from additional government funding (beyond the revenue support grant)?

100% is from core spending power.

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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 icocasework@ico.org.uk.

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

Yours faithfully

Information Governance