



Information Governance Team

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04 January 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI469262462

Thank you for your request for information relating to Homelessness in Coventry.

You have requested the following information:

Please may I request the following information for your local authority area:

- 1) Any data collected on who turns down support offered by local authority outreach teams. This could include demographic/circumstantial information (i.e. why they refuse/where they are staying) on who disengages and the number of people**
- 2) Any data collected on people who stay in squats, including the number of people who are arrested or cautioned for squatting in the local authority**
- 3) Any data collected on people residing in unconventional accommodation types such as temporary structures**
- 4) A breakdown of where people are counted in local rough sleeping snapshots (e.g., cars, sheds, doorways)**
- 5) Data collected on the number of people staying in overcrowded and concealed households and any accompanying demographic information such as sex, age, ethnicity.**
- 6) Data collected on the number of people who “sofa surf” or stay temporarily in the homes of others.**

Clarification: Please can I request this information for financial year 21/22.

Please see the attached document.

The supply of information in response to a FOI/EIR 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 icocasework@ico.org.uk.

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

Yours faithfully

Information Governance

FOI469262462 – Homelessness in Coventry

Request details:

Please may I request the following information for your local authority area:

Clarification: Please can I request this information for financial year 21/22.

1) Any data collected on who turns down support offered by local authority outreach teams. This could include demographic/circumstantial information (i.e. why they refuse/where they are staying) on who disengages and the number of people

We do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. The Council are unable to report historical data relating to this as someone may turn down support one day, accept it the following day but then refuse it again at a later date. As a snapshot In November 2022 more than a third of the people we found rough sleeping refused support from the outreach team, however a number of these did engage with us at a later date. We are persistent and visit people again and again and continue to offer support even when support is refused.

2) Any data collected on people who stay in squats, including the number of people who are arrested or cautioned for squatting in the local authority

We do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. To assist, the experience of the Rough Sleeper Outreach Team is that there is usually at least one known squat at any time, but that they are often short-lived, and people move on elsewhere.

3) Any data collected on people residing in unconventional accommodation types such as temporary structures

We do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. To assist, the experience of the Rough Sleeper Outreach Team is that this is uncommon in Coventry.

4) A breakdown of where people are counted in local rough sleeping snapshots (e.g., cars, sheds, doorways)

For the purpose of the estimates, people sleeping rough are defined as:

People sleeping, about to bed down (sitting on/in or standing next to their bedding) or actually bedded down in the open air (such as on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments). People in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or “bashes”).

We use the above definition for snapshots as well as our annual count

5) Data collected on the number of people staying in overcrowded and concealed households and any accompanying demographic information such as sex, age, ethnicity.

The Coventry Homefinder register (the register for social housing) records how many households on the register are in a priority band due to overcrowding. We are not able to

provide data for 2021/22 as a new policy and IT system was implemented in September 2021, which included changes to the criteria and banding, and required all applicants to re-register.

However, for context, there are currently 156 households on the register who are overcrowded and require two (or more) bedrooms more than their current accommodation, and 1,739 households on the register who require one more bedroom than their current accommodation. (This is using the 'bedroom standard' to calculate the number of bedrooms required as recommended in the 'Allocation of Accommodation: guidance for local authorities' DLUHC publication). To clarify – these are households on the register, not those that have made a homelessness application.

The tables below show the age band, sex and ethnic origin of the main applicant in households on the register who are overcrowded:

Age band - main applicant	Count of overcrowded households
Between 18 and 24	165
Between 25 and 29	219
Between 30 and 34	362
Between 35 and 39	406
Between 40 and 44	268
Between 45 and 49	227
Between 50 and 54	116
Between 55 and 59	61
Between 60 and 64	31
65 and over	40
Grand Total	1895

Sex - main applicant	Count of overcrowded households
Female	1315
Male	557
Prefer not to say	18
(blank)	5
Grand Total	1895

Ethnic Origin - main applicant	Count of overcrowded households
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	34
Asian or Asian British - Chinese	3
Asian or Asian British - Indian	27
Asian or Asian British - Other	77
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	52
Black or Black British - African	435
Black or Black British - Caribbean	30
Black or Black British - Other	26
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Group - Other Mixed	9
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Group - White and Asian	8
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Group - White and Black African	16
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Group - White and Black Caribbean	52
Other Ethnic Group	46
Other Ethnic Group - Arab	32
Prefer Not to State	54
White - British	813
White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller	1
White - Irish	6
White - Other	169
(blank)	5
Grand Total	1895

Regarding concealed households – people wishing to form their own household are given priority in the Coventry Homefinder Policy that was implemented in September 2021, under the priority category of ‘Housing need with a local connection’, however this category is not broken down in the way it is recorded and so we cannot provide a figure without checking the notes on each application within the cost of compliance (18 hours).

6) Data collected on the number of people who “sofa surf” or stay temporarily in the homes of others.

We do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. This information is not collated.