



**Information Governance Team**

Postal Address:  
Coventry City Council  
PO Box 7097  
Coventry  
CV6 9SL

[www.coventry.gov.uk](http://www.coventry.gov.uk)

E-mail: [infogov@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:infogov@coventry.gov.uk)

Phone: 024 7697 5408

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Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**  
**Request ID: FOI668360962**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Disabled Facilities Grants.

You have requested the following information:

- 1. Does the local authority offer Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) above the statutory maximum and, if yes, how is this delivered:**
- o Top ups (paid for by the local authority)?**
  - o Loans?**
  - o Other (please specify)**

We have discretionary top up included in our housing assistance policy.

- 2. What is the total number of Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) applications A) received and B) accepted by the local authority that have been above the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) statutory maximum amount over the following periods:**
- o April 2021 to March 2022**
  - o April 2022 to March 2023**
  - o April 2023 to March 2024?**

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.

We estimate that because the information is held in a nonreportable format it would require an officer to manually review the information to determine what is held and collate the relevant information. This has been estimated to exceed the 18-hour limit under the Act. This part of your request has been refused under section 12(2) of the Act.

However, in order to fulfil our obligations under Section 16 of the FOI Act to advise and assist you, we advise that for Question 2, we are able to provide the number of referrals received but not all of these would turn into applications.

For Question 16, we can provide data on median timings for each year from approval to completion but not from assessment as this was not recorded on the system and not split into each type of adaptation as requested.

If you wish to request this information this would be treated as a new request and processed as such under the Act.

**3. Are there any other means in which adaptations are funded by the local authority (if so please specify)?**

No.

**4. What was the local authority's Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) budget for the periods:**

**o April 2021 to March 2022**

**o April 2022 to March 2023**

**o April 2023 to March 2024?**

Following careful consideration, the information you requested falls under the exemption(s) in Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which relates to 'information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means.'

The exemption applies as the information is published and publicly available to view by accessing the Foundations website, please use the following link:

[https://wwwFOUNDATIONS.UK.COM/library/DFG Allocations/](https://wwwFOUNDATIONS.UK.COM/library/DFG%20Allocations/)

This exemption is not subject to the public interest test.

**5. What proportion of the local authority's Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) budget was spent during the periods:**

**o April 2021 to March 2022**

**o April 2022 to March 2023**

**o April 2023 to March 2024**

April 2021 to March 2022: £2,875,424

April 2022 to March 2023: £4,053,159

April 2023 to March 2024: £5,530,532

**6. What is the process for means-testing applicants for the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) in your local authority?**

Currently means testing for all applicants for works over £10,000.

**7. Are there any exemptions to the means test for people with rapidly progressive terminal conditions, such as MND in your local authority?**

No exception to means testing noted in Housing Assistance Policy.

**8. Are there any circumstances in which the DFG mandatory means test is waived and, if so, what are those circumstances? (e.g. for adaptations under a certain cost or of a certain type)**

Circumstances where the DFG mandatory means test is waived are where the works are under £10,000 and if the user is in receipt of children and passported benefit.

**9. Has your local authority conducted any assessments (including an Impact Equality Assessment) or reviews on the appropriateness of means testing for individuals with rapidly progressive terminal conditions, such as MND or disability more widely?**

We are currently revising the Housing Assistance Policy and an Equality Impact Assessment will be completed as part of this

**10. Do you currently have a fast-track application process in place to provide Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) funding more rapidly to applicants with urgent needs? If yes, what are the eligibility criteria to access this process?**

Yes, we do have a fast-track application process and apply the following eligibility criteria to access this process: hospital discharge, life limited condition rapidly deteriorating or entering end of life, severe risk of family/carers breakdown, at risk of serious physical or psychological harm based on score matrix.

**11. How many DFG applications were A) received under the fast-track process (if applicable) and B) how many of these were approved under the fast-track process during the period:**

o April 2021 to March 2022

o April 2022 to March 2023

o April 2023 to March 2024

Please refer to Question 2.

**12. Does your local authority maintain a record or register of accessible homes available for individuals with disabilities, including those living with progressive terminal conditions, such as MND**

We can confirm that we do not hold this information and are informing you as required under Section 1(1) of the Act.

Coventry City Council does not own any housing stock as this was transferred to Citizen Housing (formerly Whitefriars) in September 2000 through Large Scale Voluntary Transfer.

This transfer also involved movement of responsibility for management of the housing stock, including repairs and maintenance and the setting and collection of rents along with any right-to-buy activities.

For clarity, the Council relinquished responsibility regarding these matters in their entirety as part of the transfer.

To advise and assist you further, information about Citizen Housing and their services can be found on the web site at:

<https://www.citizenhousing.org.uk/>

However, to advise further we have an Occupational Therapist within the Council's Housing Department to assist in finding suitable properties.

**13. If such a register exists, how is it updated and made available to individuals and families in need of accessible housing?**

Not applicable.

**14. If no record is maintained, are there any plans to develop a database or register of accessible homes in your local authority?**

No.

For the below questions use your definitions of small, medium and large adaptations.

**15. What was the average time taken (in days) complete the assessment of A) small, B) medium and C) large-sized adaptations under the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) during the period:**

- o April 2021 to March 2022**
- o April 2022 to March 2023**
- o April 2023 to March 2024?**

**16. What was the average time taken (in days) from the approval of A) small, B) medium and C) large-sized Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) to the completion of the installation during the period:**

- o April 2021 to March 2022**
- o April 2022 to March 2023**
- o April 2023 to March 2024**

For Questions 15 and 16, please refer to Question 2.

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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](mailto: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](mailto:icocasework@ico.org.uk).

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

Yours faithfully

**Information Governance**