



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: FOI674824389**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Homelessness/SWEP.

You have requested the following information:

Please provide the following information relevant to your Council for the period 1st August 2022 to 31st July 2024.

- 1. The number of times the Severe Weather Protocol (SWEP) was activated.**
- 2. The dates (from and to) of each SWEP activation (see Q1).**
- 3. The number of people you assisted with each SWEP activation (see Q1).**

Please see the table below which contains the information for Questions 1-3.

| Date From | Date to (inclusive) | Number of people assisted (total) | Max on any one night |
|------------------|----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 06/12/2022 | 18/12/2022 | 65 | 31 |
| 25/12/2022 | 27/12/2022 | 8 | 8 |
| 13/01/2023 | 29/01/2023 | 87 | 45 |
| 05/02/2023 | 09/02/2023 | 64 | 39 |
| 24/02/2023 | 24/02/2023 | 25 | 25 |
| 06/03/2023 | 11/03/2023 | 60 | 33 |
| 13/03/2023 | 14/03/2023 | 39 | 33 |
| 24/11/2023 | 26/11/2023 | 22 | 17 |
| 28/11/2023 | 05/12/2023 | 49 | 23 |
| 05/01/2024 | 21/01/2024 | 91 | 39 |
| 31/01/2024 | 01/02/2024 | 13 | 13 |
| 07/02/2024 | 09/02/2024 | 10 | 8 |
| 22/02/2024 | 26/02/2024 | 11 | 10 |
| 29/02/2024 | 03/03/2024 | 34 | 26 |

Please note: SWEP is activated in Coventry when the forecast is for a 'feels-like' temperature of 0 degrees or lower overnight, we do not wait for a forecast of 0 degrees on three consecutive nights.

The figures above include individuals staying on some nights but not all for each SWEP period, and may include individuals staying in more than one SWEP period.

SWEP was also activated during hot weather on the following dates:

08-08-22 to 14-8-22

09-06-23

11-06-23 to 26-06-23

04-09-23

07-09-23

25-6-24 to 30-6-24

During hot-weather SWEP, water and suncream are available at a drop-in point and are also offered to rough sleepers by the outreach team, and people can access an inside space during the day. We do not have figures for the number of people assisted during the hot-weather SWEP activations.

4. The protocol your Council used for each SWEP activation (see Q1) e.g. the provision of indoor accommodation or street level assistance with water and suncream or similar, etc.

During cold periods, when SWEP is activated, an email is sent out across to all partners and they are encouraged to share this information. SWEP activation is also shown on the council's website. There are five 'emergency beds' available all year round for rough sleepers, and this is extended during SWEP, providing a further seven emergency beds at the same location and also a Warm Space provision elsewhere.

Outreach Teams work to inform any known rough sleepers to ensure that everyone is aware when

SWEP is available. We also provide hotels for individuals where it's deemed more appropriate, ensuring everyone who wants to come in can do so.

During periods of hot weather, the outreach teams take out water and suncream to people we know are outdoors. This is also made available via the local drop in, provided by The Salvation Army.

5. For SWEP activations generally, did SWEP augment existing Council services or were temporary closures/suspensions of some existing services required?

There are no closures of existing services; SWEP is in addition to existing services.

6. For SWEP activations generally, did your Council provide additional bed spaces, and if yes were they offered beyond the period of SWEP activation?

We provide additional beds and spaces during periods of SWEP: Seven more emergency beds; hotel rooms where appropriate; and a Warm Space. Hotel rooms are also offered all year around when we need to and these can be for extended periods while we are supporting people to move on. When people are engaging with support we will provide a room to enable that work to continue.

7. Does your Council have an active SWEP policy document? If yes, please provide this.

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 Council website, please use the following link:

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/homelessness-1/coventry-swep-protocol-2022>

8. Has your council implemented any new SWEP protocols relating to i) Heat SWEP provision and/or ii) Other extreme weather provision.

We now provide a Warm Space, on nights when SWEP is activated (this was introduced in 2023/24). Outreach Teams are able to engage with people more easily than when we allocated hotel rooms.

9. To be offered a SWEP placement by your Council do people have to be verified on your systems or otherwise known to you?

They do not have to be verified on any system or otherwise known to us.

10. Do your Council's SWEP provisions accommodate homeless people who have no recourse to public funds?

Yes.

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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