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If calling please ask for:
Kenny McKaig 01382 434577

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Request Reference No. 20210503001

I refer to your request of 30/04/2021

The answers to your questions are as follows:

Subject: Freedom of Information request - COVID Winter Hardship Payments

1. How did you distribute the COVID Winter Hardship Payments to vulnerable families?

Winter Hardship Payments were paid directly into bank account of families who satisfied the criteria set by Scottish Government. A very small number of payments were also made via Paypoint.

2. Did you use this grant to distribute financial support to families of children eligible for Free School Meals?

Payments were made to parents/carer of school age children eligible for Free School Meals, based on a low income.

3. How many children were eligible for Free School Meals?

Based on the Scottish Government Winter Hardship Payment criteria, 5444 children were eligible.

4. When will you be awarding the new £100 COVID Spring Hardship Payment?

Spring Hardship Payments were paid in April 2021.

5. How will this be paid?

Spring Hardship Payments were paid directly into bank accounts of families who satisfied the criteria set by Scottish Government. A very small number of payments were also made via Paypoint.

6. Whilst tackling poverty and inequality, are there other settings such as early learning and childcare where payments will be considered?

Eligible children for the Spring Hardship payment were those in school and in early learning and childcare, who received a Free School Meal based on a low income. This included children who had no recourse to public funds or considered eligible at local authority discretion to promote wellbeing.

In exercising this discretion, the Local Authority included the following children as being entitled to the Spring Hardship Payment:-

Early learning and childcare children who were included in a Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction claim and children in P1 -P3 who received a School Clothing Grant.

7. Which role(s) and job functions manage the contract for this service?

Winter and Spring Hardship Payments were administered by the Benefit Delivery Team within Customer Services & IT in Dundee City Council.

The Benefit Delivery Team assess entitlement to Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction, Free School Meals, Education Maintenance Allowance and Discretionary Housing Payments.

Your Right to Appeal

If you are unhappy with this reply you may require the Council to review its actions and decisions in relation to your request.

The requirement for review must:-

- be in writing or other permanent form (please address it to me);
- state your name and give an address for correspondence;
- specify the original request for information and the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction; and
- be made within 40 working days of the date of this response, although the Council may, if it considers it appropriate to do so, consider requirements for review after that time has passed.

Your requirement for review will be dealt with by a Senior Officer who will reply to you in writing promptly and in any event within 20 working days. He/she may:-

- confirm my decision with or without modification;
- substitute a different decision for my decision;

and will give you their reasons for so doing. If you are unhappy with the Senior Officers decision you may then appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. You must submit your appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months of receiving the Senior Officers decision. Further details on the Scottish Information Commissioner's appeal procedure can be found using the direct link www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal or email xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx or telephone (01334) 464610 or write to Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Yours faithfully

Kenneth McKaig
Legal Manager