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Mr Liam Sheehan

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Sent by Email

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Dear Mr Sheehan

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Thank you for your request for information, which I received on 9 December 2016, about immigration compliance and enforcement in relation to rough sleepers. Please accept my apologies for the slight delay in sending this response.

I am pleased to provide the following information:

1. *How many visits to rough sleepers have you conducted with ICE/Home office officials?*
  - There have been approximately fifteen joint visits undertaken in cooperation with Immigration Enforcement (SLICE Team) to identified encampments since August 2014
2. *What are the locations of the visits in Q1?*
  - Margaret McMillan Park
  - River Pool Linear Park
  - Fordham Park
  - Comet Place
  - Crossfields Estate
  - Baxter Fields
  - Ferranti Park
  - Catford Hill
  - Ladywell Fields
  - Baildon Street/ Glenville Grove
  - Reginald Road/Deptford Broadway
3. *How many people have the council helped voluntarily return through these visits? And what were the nationalities of these individuals?*
  - Assistance has been provided by way of referrals to London Street Rescue who have accessed support via No Second Night Out, Housing Pathways and have provided assistance in relation to local outreach centres and day centres. The Crime, Enforcement, and Regulation Service (CERS) have undertaken numerous support meetings with individuals identified as sleeping rough and relevant day centres to assist in relation to welfare support, obtaining national insurance numbers to access employment and providing details of charitable organisations.

- No Second Night Out referrals – 15
  - Housing Pathways – 10 (UK Nationals)
  - London Street Rescue – (Thames Reach) Supported reconnection 2 (Polish)
  - Immigration Voluntary Reconnection – 3 (Romanian)
4. *How many people have the council helped the ICE/Home Office detain through these visits? And what were the nationalities of these individuals?*

The Council has taken the following actions:

- Minded to return letters provided (Initial stage whereby Immigration Enforcement provide an identified rough sleeper with a notice to prove the individual is exercising their treaty rights) – 20 (19 Romanian, 1 Polish)
  - Isi15a Forms – (Where an Immigration officer has reasonable grounds to suspect that an individuals is failing to uphold treaty rights) – 8 (Romanian)
  - Administrative Removals -1 (Polish National)
5. *The guidance the Council's team working with ICE/Home Office follow when investigating the immigration status of rough sleepers? And when facilitating voluntary return of rough sleepers?*
- The service's default position is to attempt to exhaust all possible methods of engagement as a means of assisting an individual identified as sleeping rough, nevertheless, offers of engagement at times differentiate between UK Nationals and EEA Nationals as a consequence of eligibility to welfare support, access to drug and alcohol treatment as well as housing provision.

The steps outlined below are indicative of the process when identifying rough sleepers within an unauthorised encampment;

Engagement; establish contact and ID and communicate offer.

If this is refused then enforcement action may be taken. This includes Disruption/Dispersal notices, ASBOs CBOs PSPOs and administrative removal by UKBA, with the outcome being removal/reconnection.

If after the initial engagement, the offer is accepted, additional documentation would be sought and assistance would include supported reconnection, short term accommodation and treatment beds, advice on exercising Treaty rights with the outcome of self-support/supported reconnection.

6. *The amount of funding from central government (DCLG or Home Office) the council has received in the last 4 years to aid the Home Office with immigration enforcement of rough sleepers?*
- None
7. *Any reports that evaluate previous work with the Home Office/ICE in aiding with immigration enforcement of rough sleepers?*
- No
8. *Any proposals submitted in the last 12 months to gain future funding for aiding the Home Office/ICE*
- No

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I trust that the information provided is useful to you, but if you have any further queries, please feel free to contact me again.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Hatch  
Complaints Officer for Community Services

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