

Information Rights Team

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FOI Reference: 20963621

Date: 13th March 2023

Freedom of Information Act 2000**Subject: Temporary Accommodation Spend**

We write with regard to your recent enquiry for information held by the Council under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Request and Response

I write to make a request for information relating to the total NET (rather than gross) spending on the provision of temporary accommodation for those registering as homeless made by this council between the years 2017 and 2022

As part of this request I would like the information to be broken down into the following:

(i)The number of people placed into temporary accommodation after making a homeless application, broken down into year-by-year

Please see table below for the count of new homeless households housed in temporary accommodation for the first time during the years requested.

Note: only the first tenancy of each household has been counted to avoid double counting and the count of people is the number included on the homeless application at first tenancy start date.

First Tenancy Start Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand Total
Households Accommodated	1377	1185	1190	1147	920	893	6712
# People in Households	4329	3498	3430	2566	2580	2168	18571

(ii) The average length of stay in temporary accommodation after making a homeless application;

The average length of stay in temporary accommodation for the 6712 households referred to in Q1 is 779 days. The average length of stay in temporary accommodation for current households is 1531 days.

(iii) The total cost of temporary accommodation to the council, broken down into costs per night, per month and per year.

Please find below the annual net spend on temporary accommodation properties for 2017/18 to 2021/22 and forecast net spend for 2022/23.

Year	Net Cost
2017/18	£4,702,231.35
2018/19	£7,397,040.21
2019/20	£5,523,246.95
2020/21	£10,969,174.52
2021/22	£13,803,611.52
2022/23 forecast	£15,255,921.43

We do not hold the information requested in relation to nightly, weekly and monthly spend in a readily reportable format to enable us to respond to this part of your request. The manual retrieval of information would be officer time intensive and would exceed the appropriate limit.

Under the Freedom of Information Act the Council has a right to refuse a request for information held if the cost of complying with a request exceeds the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit for local authorities is £450 or 2.5 days or 18 hours. We believe in this case such an exemption applies and has decided to refuse your request for information under section 12(1) of the Act.

12 Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

Please quote the FOI reference number above in any future communications.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be submitted to the contact details given above.

If you are still dissatisfied with the Council's response after the internal review you have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at: www.ico.org.uk

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact a member of our team at InformationRightsTeam@newham.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Information Rights Team
Newham Council