

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

1) How much has Leicester City Council spent on accommodating statutory homeless people in B&B and hotel accommodation in 2010 and 2011?

Our recording mechanisms for this data are set up to report on our quarterly statutory returns (P1e returns). These require an end of quarter snapshot position on the number of people in temporary accommodation, including B&B and hotels. For each of the end of quarter returns for 2010 and 2011 (with the exception of Oct – Dec 2011 which has yet to be published) there have been no households accommodated in either B&B or hotels under a main homelessness duty. This is not to say that this type of accommodation has not been used, just that on the end day of each quarter there has been no usage.

In fact, during 2010 there were 72 households which were placed in B&B/Hotel accommodation and 88 in 2011.

Overall costs incurred were £13,492 in 2010 and £32,288 in 2011.

Please remember that this will also include households who are not 'statutory' homelessness and will be used for:

- 'Respite' temporary accommodation, for example when assisting households experiencing threatened eviction from a private tenancy where our intervention may result in a return to the tenancy after a very short period of time.
- 'Prevention' temporary accommodation, where a permanent rehousing solution is available but not immediately so that temporary accommodation is used.

To isolate just those households where a statutory duty existed would require us to examine each case to ensure that they met your criteria, and then also match these cases with our financial records.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for local government is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending more than 18 hours in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

We estimate it will take over 18 hours to process this element of your request.

This is therefore a Refusal Notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act, because under the provisions of section 12.1 of the Act, the Council estimates that to comply with your request in its current form will exceed the appropriate limit.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain, including any dates or period of time relevant to the information required. We do have a duty to advise and assist you in refining your request under s16 of the Act so please don't hesitate to contact us if you need help in refining your request.

However, we hope that the information we have provided is sufficient for your purposes.

2a) Has Leicester City Council had to resort to using hotels to accommodate the statutory homeless in 2010 and 2011?

Yes, usually for brief periods while waiting for more appropriate accommodation e.g. hostels.

2b) If YES, which hotels have Leicester City Council used?

These are Campanile, Castle Park, Comfort Inn, Leicester City Hotel, Stoneycroft, Westcotes Lodge, Sky Plaza, Regency and Park.

2c) How many statutory homeless have been accommodated in hotels in 2010 and 2011?

Please see our response to Question 1.

3) What is the most Leicester City Council has had to pay, per night, for B&B or hotel accommodation in 2010 and 2011?

For all B&B and Hotel usage and not just those cases which are statutory homeless we can advise as follows:

2010 – £125 (Park Hotel, Family with 6 children in October)

2011 - £150 (Stoneycroft, Family with 7 children in December)

The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use. Please be aware that any commercial or other use, for example publication, sale, or redistribution may be a breach of copyright under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 as amended unless you obtain the copyright holder's prior permission.

Not all the information that is supplied which is covered by copyright will be the Council's copyright, for example it may be the copyright of a government department or another Council. You should seek either the Council's consent or their consent as appropriate. The Council is willing to advise you of any such potential issues on request. In order to make a request to re-use the

information please contact the Information Governance Manager using the details below.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

Head of Information Governance

Information and Support

Leicester City Council

FREEPOST (LE985/33)

New Walk Centre

LEICESTER LE1 6ZG

e-mail: FOIA@leicester.gov.uk

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

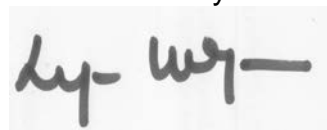
Wilmslow SK9 5AF

Telephone: 01625 545 700

www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider appeals or complaints until the internal appeals and complaints processes of the public authority which is answering the request have been exhausted. You are therefore advised to complain or appeal to Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynn Wyeth', is written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Lynn Wyeth

Information Governance Manager