

Reference: RFI 1706095

Request:

I am seeking information about Discretionary Housing Payments awards and DHP spending at your council in the April 1 2016 to March 31 2017 financial year.

Could you send me answers to these questions:

1. What was the council's total DHP allocation (spent and unspent) for the 2016-2017 financial year?

£473,141

2. What percentage of the council's total DHP funding for 2016-2017 was paid out in awards?

94.71%

3. Did your council exceed its government Discretionary Housing Payment allocation in the 2016-2017 financial year?

No

4. If Yes, did your council top up its government allocation? What was the topup amount?

N/A

5. Did your council have any unspent DHP budget at the end of the 2016-2017 year? If Yes, how much?

£25,017

6. How many applications for Discretionary Housing Payments were made to your council by eligible applicants in the 2016-2017 financial year?

There were 2685 claims

(By "eligible applicants," I mean DHP applicants who were in receipt of housing benefit or Universal Credit housing costs at the time of their applications and who applied for a Discretionary Housing Payment for help with housing payment problems that DHPs can be used to cover (for example, the bedroom tax, rent shortfall due to LHA caps, etc).

7. How many of those applications were rejected/unsuccessful?

517 rejected/ unsuccessful claims

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8. What were the three main reasons that eligible DHP applicants had their DHP applications turned down in the 2016-2017 financial year?

There were two reasons that DHP applicants had their DHP applications turned down in the 2016-2017 financial year;

1. They were deemed to be able to afford their Housing costs = 516
2. Other reason =1

9. Does your council restrict the number of DHP awards an applicant can receive?

No

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