

REQUEST	FAMILIES WITH NO RECOURSE TO PUBLIC FUNDS	RESPONSE
	<p>We write to request the following information under the FOIA in relation to assessments of, and the provision of support to, families with No Recourse to Public Funds ("NRPF") seeking access to support under section 17 of the Children Act 1989. If you require any further clarification as to our request, kindly inform us promptly and we would be happy to assist.</p> <p>Please see attached for questions</p>	<p>Please see attached for answers.</p>

## Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") request

We write to request the following information under the FOIA in relation to assessments of, and the provision of support to, families with No Recourse to Public Funds ("NRPF") seeking access to support under section 17 of the Children Act 1989. If you require any further clarification as to our request, kindly inform us promptly and we would be happy to assist.

### Contact details

1. Does your local authority have a separate team dealing with requests for support under section 17 Children Act 1989, for example an 'NRPF team'? **NO**
2. If yes, please provide contact details for this team (telephone and email)
3. If no, please confirm where referrals for such support should be directed to and provide contact details (telephone and email) **Childrens First Partnership Hub 01942 828300**
4. Please also provide contact details for the relevant legal team supporting children's services or dedicated NRPF team (telephone and email) **Legal Services, Children's Services Division - [legalpeople@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:legalpeople@wigan.gov.uk)**

### Policies

5. Do you have any guidance or policy documents or other such written material in respect of undertaking assessments and providing support pursuant to section 17 of the Children Act 1989 to families with no recourse to public funds (including documents specific to this issue, or of more general application but covering this issue)? **NO**
6. If yes, please provide us with a copy.

### Assessments

7. How many families requested assessments under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022? **We had 733 contacts in the time period, 318 that went onto referral.**

**Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) relieves a public authority from the obligation to comply with a request for information where the estimated time required to locate, review and extract the information exceeds a certain threshold set out in Regulations. The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (Si 2004/3244) set out the rules in relation to the cost limit (otherwise called the "appropriate limit"), These Regulations are published by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) and are viewable on their website from this link : [http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2004/uksi\\_20043244\\_en.pdf](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2004/uksi_20043244_en.pdf)**

**The Regulations set out the cost limit for Government departments and for other public authorities. For Local Government, Regulation 3 states that the cost limit is £450 and Regulation 4(4) states that the prescribed hourly rate is £25. Regulation 4(4) further provides that where the local authority estimates the time taken to gather the information would exceed this limit (which based on the prescribed hourly rate, equates to 18 officer hours), it may refuse the request under Section 12 of the FoIA. I am satisfied the cost limit applies to your request and will explain why this is the case.**

**Q8-13 are not recorded in a reportable format and therefore to look at 318 records at a minimum of 5 minutes per record would take 26.5 hours.**

8. How many of the families identified in question 7 received financial support under section 17 following their assessment?
9. How many of the families identified in question 7 received accommodation under section 17 of the Children Act following their assessment?

10. How many of the families identified in question 7 had no recourse to public funds (either because of a restriction on their leave to remain or because they were undocumented)?
11. How many families with no recourse to public funds received financial support under section 17 following their assessment?
12. How many families with no recourse to public funds received accommodation under section 17 following their assessment?
13. What were the five most common reasons for refusing support under section 17 of the Children Act? Please note that we are not requesting personal information. Answers can be general, such as 'not in need' or 'immigration status'

### **Subsistence**

14. What types of subsistence support does the local authority provide (e.g. cash, prepayment cards, vouchers)? *In the main prepayment cards and vouchers (where applicable)*
15. What criteria are used to determine the type of subsistence support? Please provide any policies or guidance if available. **GOV.UK website – allowances can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/asylum-support/what-youll-get>**
16. If the local authority pays a fixed rate of financial support, what is this rate? *£40.85 per day per adult in each household*
17. Does the local authority provide any additional payments, such as for young children, pregnant mothers, or maternity grants? If yes, please specify. *If eligible - allowances can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/asylum-support/what-youll-get>*
18. If the answers to question 16 and/or 17 are yes, how have the figures been reached (e.g. by reference to section 4 support)? *The guidelines we follow are contained on the GOV.UK website and can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/asylum-support/what-youll-get> (<https://migrantinfohub.org.uk/news-and-updates/08062020-asylum-support-rate-increase;> <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e79d8e733732027022479bb/t/5ee75fd7dd4fcc49482efd6a/1592221655440/08.06.20+Chief+Executives+letter-+asylum+support+rate+increase.pdf>*