

This is an information request relating to compensation paid to private housing companies for damages done by homeless people/rough sleepers to emergency accommodation.

Please include the information for each of the following financial years; 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 (to present):

<p>1) How much has been paid annually to private housing companies for damage done by homeless people/rough sleepers in emergency accommodation.</p>	<p>We do not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. 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.</p>
<p>2) Information on the damage done, if this is held. For example, if there are damage reports/incident reports provided by the housing companies along with the invoice for any damage.</p>	<p>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 web site from this link:  <a href="http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2004/uksi_20043244_en.pdf">http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2004/uksi_20043244_en.pdf</a></p> <p>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 FoIA.</p> <p>I am satisfied the cost limit applies to your request and will explain why this is the case.</p> <p>1st April 2019- 1st April 2020 = 133 placements into hotel          1st April 2020 – 1st April 2021 = 642 placements into hotel          1st April 2021 – 1st April 2022 = 645 placements into hotel          1st April 2022 – 9th Feb 2023 = 543 placement into hotel</p> <p>Total of 1963, plus placements doesn't mean one invoice, there could be hundreds of invoices attached to one booking, as you book and then extend the placement, and customer can be in for months.</p> <p>If we looked at 1963 placements it could easy take an hour to go through each case and invoices attached that would be 1963 hours.</p>