

These questions specifically pertain to your local welfare assistance/provision (LWA) scheme. By LWA scheme, we mean a discretionary service which:

- provides grants to your residents when facing a crisis (these grants may take the form of cash, vouchers or the item itself, e.g. a cooker);
- has a claims process via which a member of the public can apply for support, that is, they are not targeted at specific cohorts.

Please do not include information about the Household Support Fund (HSF) unless you used HSF funds for your local welfare assistance scheme. All questions are specifically referring to support provided via the LWA scheme which is set out on <https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Benefit-Grants/Welfare-Reform/Local-Welfare-Support.aspx> and we require information from the period 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023.

1. What was the total spend on your scheme in 2022/23?
2. How many applications did you receive to this scheme in 2022/23?
3. How many applications were successful in 2022/23?
4. How much was spent on the provision of furniture, white goods and furnishings (including flooring and window coverings) in 2022/23? This includes cash, vouchers and the provision of the item itself.
  - a. What percentage was:
    - Cash
    - Vouchers
    - Provision of the item itself
5. Please tick (or otherwise indicate) which furniture/appliance types you provide and tell us whether these are new or preloved (e.g. Y/N, New/Preloved):

Cooker, Fridge, Freezer, Fridge Freezer, Washing Machine, Sofa , Bed, Wardrobe, Chest of Drawers, Table and Chairs, Flooring (Carpets or Lino), Window coverings (curtains or blinds)
6. Do you replace broken appliances or furniture items?
7. Can social housing tenants apply to the fund for support provided they meet the general application criteria?
8. What proportion of any furniture, appliances and furnishing spend went to social housing tenants?
9. What percentage of your 2022/23 spend was funded by your core spending power (as opposed to additional Govt. funding provided via Section 31 grants, such as the Household Support Fund). If your scheme was not 100% core funded, how is the remaining budget funded?
10. What is your budget for 2023/24?
11. What percentage of your 2023/24 budget is funded by your core spending power? If this budget is not 100% core funded, how is the remaining budget funded?

## Response

Please see attached spreadsheet

Please note with regard to question 3 and question 8:-

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.

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: [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 FoIA.

I am satisfied the cost limit applies to your request and will explain why this is the case.

We received over 50,000 applications overall across LWA and HSF during this period. We would need to manually review each application to establish which scheme they fall under linked to successful/unsuccessful outcomes. Taking approximately 3 minutes per application would result far in excess of the 18 hour officer time stipulated in the Act.