

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 000971
Date 15 March 2017

Local Welfare Assistance Scheme

Request:

I am seeking year-on-year spend and applicant information for your council's local welfare assistance scheme (your assistance scheme for people in extreme financial hardship).

Could you send me answers to the following questions:

- 1) The total amounts your council funded for and spent on local welfare assistance in the following financial years:
2013-2014 - £1,356,618.92 (Council run Local Discretionary Grant Scheme)
2014-2015 - £689,494 (Council run Local Discretionary Grant Scheme to 30 June 2014; Loan scheme in partnership with Wolverhampton Credit Union from 1 July 2014)
2015-2016 - £200,000 (Loan scheme in partnership with Wolverhampton Credit Union)
2016-2017 – loan scheme in partnership with Wolverhampton Credit Union
- 2) The number of applicants to your local welfare assistance scheme in the following financial years:
2013 - to 30 June 2014 – 3,000 applications of which 1,362 were successful
1 July 2014 & 2015 - 31 December 2016 - 2,601 loans issued
2017 - statistics not due until 31 March
- 3) The three most common reasons that people applied for local welfare assistance in the following financial years:
2013 - 30 June 2014 – (1) Household goods; (2) White goods; (3) Bedding
1 July 2014- 2015
2015-2016
2016-2017
Information from Wolverhampton Credit Union for the period from 1 July 2014 to 31 December 2016:
1. Benefit sanction
2. Essential Household items
3. Changes to benefits (ESA to JSA or UC)
- 4) In question 3, if Universal Credit delays were one of the three most common reasons why people applied for LWA in more recent years, did those applicants

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

require rent or housing deposit assistance or any other assistance to stay housed because of Universal Credit payment delays? [Information not available](#)

- 5) In the council's view, is pressure on LWA increasing or decreasing (is the need for the service increasing or decreasing)? [Increasing number of applications to the Credit Union for Crisis Loans and Welfare Loans.](#)