

FOI Ref
8265

Response sent
26 Nov 20

(CCC) 3 emails received 24/11/20

Between 31 March and 31 October 2018, Between 31 March and 31 October 2019 and
Between 31 March and 31 October 2020

How many referrals did your council receive from organisations concerning someone they believed might be homeless or may be threatened with homelessness (defined as 'within the next 56 days' from time of application)? Could you please give me the description of, and figures for the three most common types of organisations (for example: prison and youth offender institutions, secure training centres/colleges, youth offending teams and probation services, Jobcentre plus, accident and emergency services provided in a hospital, urgent treatment centres, in-patient hospitals, social service authorities, Ministry of Defence for members of the regular armed forces) which referred someone they thought might be homeless or may be threatened with homelessness to you over this period? Could you please give me the description of, and figures for the three most common types of reasons, as stated in the referrals, why those referred found themselves in that position of homelessness or at risk of homelessness (for example: debt problems, problems with a landlord, being a victim of domestic abuse, or other forms of violence/threats or intimidation, approaching discharge from hospital/armed forces or release from custody with no accommodation available to them, having previously been in care/ the armed forces or in prison). How many applicants, who were referred to you from organisations which believed they might be homeless or threatened with homelessness, were found to be eligible for assistance? Could you please give me the description of, and figures for the three most allocated types of accommodation (for example: (but not limited to) hotel, B&B, hostel, self contained accommodation) these eligible applicants were subsequently offered in their personalised housing plan?

Response:

In addition, please note the following points:

Although we have not limited our response to those organisations with a statutory duty to refer, please note that the statutory duty did not come into effect until 1st October 2018, meaning that the results for 2018 would always be substantially lower than subsequent years.

Please note that referrers are not required by law to state the reason why they believe the applicant may be homeless or threatened with homelessness – this is for the authority to assess. Some referrers may not provide this information, so the results for 'common reasons' are taken only from those cases where this information was provided by the referrer. We have also omitted result where the reason for loss of settled home is given as 'Other'.

Creation of a 'personalised housing plan' (PHP) does not commit the authority to making an 'offer' of accommodation. The PHP contains reasonable steps that both the applicant and the authority will take, in order to assist the applicant into suitable accommodation of any sort. We are interpreting your question to be asking what kind of accommodation was secured by the applicant or the authority during the prevention or relief period, or at the end of a successful prevention or relief period. If we have misinterpreted your question, please advise.

Further queries on this matter should be directed to foi@cambridge.gov.uk