



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref ATISN 15009

Dear

19 April 2021

Request for Information – ATISN 15009

Thank you for your request which I received on 17 March.

You asked for the cost of housing addicts and ex-offenders in the Ambassador Hotel, Neath and who made the decision to house them there.

The information you requested is enclosed.

We do not hold information on the costs of housing these individuals at the Ambassador Hotel in Neath. These will be held by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC).

The information we do have is how much of the homelessness aspect of the Local Government Hardship Fund (LGHF) Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council has claimed for the additional costs associated with providing temporary accommodation and also the wrap-around support required to keep people safe during the pandemic.

Due to COVID 19 and the risk to public health caused by people sleeping rough or in inappropriate temporary accommodation, the Welsh Government has provided additional financial support to local authorities, via the Local Government Hardship Fund, to support its policy that no-one should be left without accommodation or support during the pandemic.

In 2019-20, NPTCBC claimed £1,988 from the LGHF for additional homelessness-related costs due to COVID 19. In 2020-21, NPTCBC claimed £778,196 from the LGHF. This figure may increase as the final costs for March 2021 are yet to be confirmed.

The full break down of costs per month is below:

Authority	Neath Port Talbot
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

March	£	1,988
2019-20	£	1,988
April	£	8,826
May	£	17,529
June	£	126,798
July	£	12,168
August	£	78,620
September	£	86,732
October	£	81,561
November	£	85,833
December	£	74,142
January	£	124,599
February	£	81,388
March		TBC
2020-21	£	778,196
Overall	£	780,184

These monthly claims cover both the costs of all temporary accommodation associated with the Covid-19 homelessness response, as well as the associated support service costs.

Welsh Government does not hold information on the specific needs of individuals experiencing homelessness and is not therefore able to breakdown these costs to a specific service user group. These costs will therefore cover a range of different people who may be experiencing homelessness, including for example people fleeing domestic abuse, people who have suffered a relationship breakdown, people who were previously sofa surfing, families with dependent children who may have lost their job and then their home and a range of other people.

For information, the Local Government Hardship Fund (LGHF) gives special financial assistance to local authorities that would otherwise be faced with an undue financial burden of providing relief to prevent suffering or severe inconvenience, in their area or among its inhabitants. This covers additional expenditure which is incurred by a local authority:

- As a result, or in connection with, the taking of action to provide relief or prevent suffering to its inhabitants;
- For its relevant service areas;
- As result of COVID 19.

More information about the Local Government Hardship Fund is available here: <https://gov.wales/local-government-hardship-fund>

Secondly, we do not hold the information of who made the decision to house these individuals in the Ambassador Hotel. The decision will have been made by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

The provision of support and assistance to those experiencing homelessness is the responsibility of local authorities, and it is for local authorities to determine the most appropriate housing solution for the individual. Due to the high level of demand on local authority housing teams during the pandemic, local authorities have been using a range of accommodation options to provide temporary accommodation to people experiencing homelessness, including the provision of self-contained hotel or B&B accommodation.

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,