

09 October 2025

Dear Applicant

Our Ref: FOI 932

Your request for information received on 11 September 2025 has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Request

- a) When a homeless applicant is placed in a single let, does Housing Benefit cover the cost up to the amount of the relevant Local Housing Allowance rate, and will the remainder be paid through the homeless fund?*
- b) When a homeless applicant is placed in a single let who is not entitled to Housing Benefit, will the homeless fund pay the cost of the accommodation over and above the relevant Local Housing Allowance rate?*
- c) If a homeless applicant is placed in a hostel and has no entitlement to Housing Benefit, is there any financial assistance available through the homeless fund to pay the cost over and above the relevant Local Housing Allowance rate?*

Our response

- a) When a homeless applicant is placed in a single let, does Housing Benefit cover the cost up to the amount of the relevant Local Housing Allowance rate, and will the remainder be paid through the homeless fund?**

In cases where an applicant is placed in a single let a charge will be applied to the applicant up to the relevant Local Housing Allowance rate. In cases where an applicant is entitled to Housing Benefit the payment will be made by Housing Benefit. In cases where there is nil or partial Housing Benefit entitlement the applicant will be responsible for any charges between the Local Housing Allowance rate and any partial or nil entitlement to Housing Benefit. For all applicants, the balance between the Local Housing Allowance rate and the charged applied by the provider will be covered by the Housing Executive via a top-up payment.

b) When a homeless applicant is placed in a single let who is not entitled to Housing Benefit, will the homeless fund pay the cost of the accommodation over and above the relevant Local Housing Allowance rate?

As above, for all applicants the balance between the Local Housing Allowance rate and the charged applied by the provider will be covered by the Housing Executive via a top-up payment.

c) If a homeless applicant is placed in a hostel and has no entitlement to Housing Benefit, is there any financial assistance available through the homeless fund to pay the cost over and above the relevant Local Housing Allowance rate?

In terms of what is referred to as the 'homeless fund' the Housing Executive does not allocate any funding received via the Department for Communities which is provided for the purposes of meeting our statutory duties, to provide financial assistance for hostels.

The Supporting People (SP) Programme, which is administered by the Housing Executive on behalf of the Department for communities, provides grant funding towards the provision of housing related support to help vulnerable people live independently in the community. This includes support through short term accommodation based services for those affected by homelessness.

Organisations funded through the SP programme operate as independent service providers. Those delivering short-term housing-related support receive direct funding in accordance with their specific funding agreements. SP funding for these services is not dependent on Housing Benefit eligibility. These services are block funded, meaning that funding levels remain fixed and do not vary based on occupancy rates or the Housing Benefit status of individuals receiving short-term accommodation-based support.

This concludes our response.