

FOI number: **HBC_FOI_20200475**
Date FOI Received: **20/08/2020**
Department: **Housing**
Title: **Hotel and temporary accommodation for homeless people**
Description: **Hotel and temporary accommodation for homeless people**

Request: (As Redacted sent by requestor)

For the financial years 2019-20 and 2020-21 to date:

1. How much money has the council spent in total on **hotel / B&B accommodation for homeless people?**

2. If time permits, I would be grateful for a **breakdown** of spending:

- The name and address of hotel(s) used
- The number of rooms purchased
- The number of nights purchased
- Any other fees / or costs incurred (e.g. food, drink, insurance etc)

Response: (Response as Redacted sent by service)

1. 2019/20 – £2,610
2020/21 to September - £17,107.50
2. The council confirms that it holds the information you have requested and provides the information to which you refer in paragraph number 1 of your request. The council refuses to disclose the information you have requested at paragraph 2 of your request and relies upon the exemption contained in Section 43 (2) Freedom of Information Act 2000, in that it is exempt information, the disclosure of which would be likely to prejudice the council's commercial interests.
Temporary housing availability is a scarce resource. A disclosure of this detail is likely to compromise the council's negotiated advantage as to pricing terms, leaving it open to being out bid by large neighbouring boroughs which are competing with the council in sourcing hotel accommodation.

The public interest in upholding the council's reasonable expectation of protecting the confidentiality of its commercial information in this context outweighs the public interest in its disclosure.

If you have any queries about the processing of your request then please do not hesitate to contact me. Further information explaining the Council's process for responding to information requests together with a complaints/appeals procedure is available in our reception or via our website at:

<https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Your-Council/Official-Publications--Guides--Policies/Access-to-Information.aspx>

The Information Commissioner oversees the application of the Freedom of Information Act. You may contact the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioners Office

Wycliffe House, Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 01625 545700

Website: www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please include the above reference number on all correspondence related to this request.

Thank you for your request.

Kind regards

Information Services