

FOI number: **HBC_FOI_20200679**
 Date FOI Received: **24/11/2020**
 Department: **Housing**
 Title: **Homeless referrals 31 Mar -31 October 2020**
 Description: **Homeless Referrals**

Request: (As Redacted sent by requestor)

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: (Response as Redacted sent by service)

The number of homelessness and threatened with homelessness referrals the council received under the duty to refer between the 31st March 2020 to 31 October 2020: = 29 Cases

	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct.
Total by month	7	6	3	7	0	5	1
Referring Organisations							
Probation & Youth Offending Team	2	1	1	2	0	1	0
Jobcentre Plus	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Police	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Social Services	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
Hospital (NHS)	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
Urgent treatment centre	1	1	0	1	0	1	0
Mental Health Team	0	2	0	1	0	1	0

The total number of referrals under the duty to refer (pursuant HRA 2017) between the 7 months period were 29 cases:
 26 cases about 90% percent were contacted and their homelessness where assessed
 About 10% no contact made.

- 1 was found not to be eligible for housing assistance
- 8 were asked to leave by relative and friends
- 4 was due to threat of domestic violence or violence.
- 3 due to hospital discharge
- 6 Prison discharge
- 4 evicted by licensor unable to pay rent.

9 of the above were found to be vulnerable and in priority need and were placed in temporary accommodation (4 in self-contained 5 in hostel sharing facilities)

16 of the above were found not to be in priority need but placed in temporary accommodation due to the pandemic COVID19. 7 of these were placed in hostels sharing facilities and 9 in B&B accommodation.

All 26 applicants were fully assessed and carried out Personalised Housing Plan except one who was found not to be eligible for housing assistance and who was referred to Social services for assistance.

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