

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA120520-1489

5 June 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 27 May, clarifying your request of 12 May, made under the Freedom of Information Act.

You asked for:

1. *How many homelessness referrals has the GLA received about people with no recourse to public funds, NRPF, since March 20th 2020?*
2. *Can you please provide the data on referring bodies? (i.e. how many people were referred to GLA by whom)*
3. *Can you please provide the data on outcomes? (referrals onwards, successfully accommodated, refusals, etc)*
4. *If for some reason not included in the answer to 3, can you confirm how many people with NRPF have been accommodated since March 20th by GLA (in partnership with charities etc it works with to achieve this) to date?*
5. *Under what power/s are people with NRPF being accommodated?*

[Clarification] I'm asking about all cases of people with NRPF whose cases were referred to the GLA for any reason. I recognise that the GLA does not have the statutory obligation to accommodate people.

My interest in this is that Councils were asked because of Covid-19 to accommodate homeless people regardless of whether they were classed with NRPF, which is a departure from usual practice.

I have been trying to find out from Councils how many referrals they received; and how many they accommodated; and need to know the figures from the GLA too, to get the full picture of how many people with NRPF a) asked for help and b) received it.

Can I clarify as well that I'd like the figures from 20/03/20. I have stated March 20 and it occurred to me that this can be interpreted as "March 2020".

Our response to your request is as follows:

At the point when rough sleepers were referred to hotel accommodation booked by the GLA, primarily via night shelters or rough sleeping outreach teams, neither the GLA nor its partners

requested or recorded information on individuals' immigration status in the UK or whether they had recourse to public funds. In the context of a public health crisis that posed a particular risk to those using night shelters or sleeping on the streets, the GLA was committed to offering those groups accommodation irrespective of those factors. This means that the GLA is unable to provide information on the number of those referred to its hotels with No Recourse to Public Funds, or on the outcomes of referrals for this group.

Over recent weeks, the GLA has worked with the charities providing support for those staying in the hotels to gather information that was not collected when people were referred or accommodated. It has done so in order to help identify the accommodation and support likely to be needed when people come to move on. This exercise has included seeking to establish whether they appear to have No Recourse to Public Funds.

On the basis of this exercise, we are able to provide information on the number of those surveyed who appear to have No Recourse to Public Funds. Please note that this information derives from an initial assessment by staff supporting those staying in the hotels, rather than on assessments by qualified immigration advisers. In some cases, this sort of advice is needed in order to clarify individuals' immigration status and such advice will form a key element of the ongoing support the GLA is providing for those in hotels. With this caveat, 325 of the 1,370 people staying in hotels booked by the GLA at the point when those residents were surveyed appear to have No Recourse to Public Funds. A further 371 have uncertain immigration status.

I hope that this information assists with your enquiry.

Yours sincerely


Senior Policy Officer

If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the GLA's FOI complaints and internal review procedure, available at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>