



Ministry of Housing,
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GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY FUNDING ALLOCATION

Thank you for your letter of 30 April setting out the work undertaken by the Greater London Authority (GLA), in collaboration with MHCLG, in recent weeks to respond to the COVID-19 crisis and explaining the next steps that you are taking.

I share your view that we must not lose this opportunity to tackle rough sleeping in the capital. We need to build on the work already being undertaken and focus on the next phase of the response which will involve swift planning about how to accommodate and help rough sleepers move on as the emergency measures are lifted.

On 18 April, the Secretary of State announced a further £1.6 billion in funding to support local authorities during the COVID-19 pandemic, taking the total funding to £3.2 billion. On 28 April, he announced the allocations for this second tranche of funding, including for the GLA.

There is now £18 million allocated to the GLA in total – a significant amount. This funding is to cover your COVID-19 expenditure pressures including rough sleeping. It is intended to cover your spend to help rough sleepers into emergency accommodation, and it is also my expectation that this funding supports your work to help rough sleepers as we enter the next steps and recovery stage. It is vital we ensure that the people currently accommodated have the best possible chance of moving on to sustainable accommodation, the funding that the GLA and individual boroughs are receiving should support this.

I also wanted to highlight the recent announcement from the Secretary of State that Dame Louise Casey will spearhead a Government taskforce on the response to rough sleeping during the COVID-19 pandemic. The taskforce will work hand-in-hand with councils and agencies across the country on plans to ensure rough sleepers can move into accommodation once the immediate crisis is over – ensuring as few people as possible return to life on the streets. The taskforce will work closely with the GLA in London.

You raised the need to address the specific requirements of non-UK nationals currently accommodated in hotels, as social distancing measures are eased. This is something that we will be considering as part of our approach as we move to the recovery stage of our response to COVID-19. Specifically in relation to those individuals with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), the rules as to eligibility relating to immigration status, including for those with NRPF,

have not changed. Local authorities must use their judgment in assessing what support they may lawfully give to each person on an individual basis, considering that person's specific circumstances and support needs. Local authorities already regularly make such judgements on accommodating individuals who might otherwise be ineligible, during extreme weather for example, where there is a risk to life. The Government recognises that these are unprecedented times and expects local authorities to support people who are sleeping rough, and also to minimise unnecessary risks to public health, acting within the law.

Your letter also set out the steps that you are taking with health and voluntary sector colleagues to ensure that no one is discharged to the streets, and highlighted cases where you have already managed to positively move people into alternative, longer-term accommodation. This is vital in our approach to support clients into secure and sustainable accommodation. We recognise that there might be challenges in securing alternative accommodation and we will work with you to identify options to bring this forward.

We will continue to work with you, ensure you are getting strong value for money, and help you plan for this next phase.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Luke Hall', is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'L' being particularly large and stylized.

LUKE HALL MP



Home Office

Lord Greenhalgh
Minister of State for Building Safety,
Fire and Communities at
Ministry of Housing, Communities &
Local Government and Home Office

FRA Chairs
PFCCs
Chief Fire Officers
By Email Only

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09 JUN 2020

Dear colleagues

I am writing to provide you with further information on the £6 million Fire COVID-19 Contingency Fund that was announced last month.

The Fund will support fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) who incur significant costs as a result of taking on additional duties during the coronavirus outbreak, including supporting the ambulance service and coroners. This funding will ensure FRAs can continue their vital work during the pandemic.

Full eligibility criteria and application guidance are attached to this letter. To be eligible for funding, FRAs will need to demonstrate that they have spent all other COVID-19 funding made available by central government. Furthermore, applications will only be considered for costs that exceed 0.2% of the FRA's budgeted revenue expenditure on fire and rescue services.

FRAs are invited to submit notices of intent to apply for funding by 30 June 2020, with formal bids to be submitted by 30 September 2020.

I would like to thank all our firefighters and fire service personnel for all the work that they are doing to respond to the coronavirus pandemic. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all firefighters and staff who are working through this difficult time with commitment and courage.

Lord Greenhalgh
Minister of State for Building Safety, Fire and Communities at
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government and Home Office

Attachment: Fire COVID-19 Contingency Fund guidance for fire and rescue authorities