

Date Provided: 6 March 2019

Rough Sleepers

Ref: EFOI / 8709

Information Request and Response by Eastbourne Borough Council

I would be grateful for information regarding the authority's use of the Government's funding provided under the Government's Rough Sleeping Initiative and additional funds provided under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. Specifically, I would like a month by month breakdown of spending from each fund for the financial year 2018/19 so far.

The Rough Sleepers Initiative is a jointly run project commissioned through Hastings Borough Council and Eastbourne Borough Council. Hastings Borough Council oversee the budget on behalf of the project, so this aspect of the FOI would need to be sent to them. They have been advised this query may be raised with them.

I would also be grateful if you could inform me which method Lewes and Eastbourne Council used to count or estimate the number of rough sleepers when reporting to the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government in Autumn 2018. Specifically, I would like to be advised whether the council used a street count, and if so over how many days, or whether an estimate was calculated.

EBC – count

LDC – estimate

All counts/estimates in East Sussex were conducted/estimated on the same agreed night

Finally, I would like to know whether this method was changed from the previous reporting period in 2017 and if so what the council's reasoning for this change was.

Yes, in EBC only, which changed from an estimate to a count.

RSI authorities were expected to undertake counts, as are all authorities where there has been a significant change in numbers of rough sleepers.