

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act to kindly request information relating to your allocation of the fourth tranche of the Household Support Fund.

I am the Research, Policy & Campaigns Officer at End Furniture Poverty, we are the campaigning and research arm of FRC Group, a group of charities and non-profit businesses.

Please see our list of questions attached, and pasted below, and thank you in advance for your assistance. If you have any questions for us about this, please do get in touch.

1. Please provide us with a copy of the management information return you are required to provide to the DWP for tranche four of the Household Support Fund.

Total provided to vulnerable households	£2,482,140
Admin Costs	£107,942
Total LA Spend	£2,590,082
Allocation	£2,590,082
Percentage of allocation spent	100%

Thurrock Totals	Spend	Volumes	Households helped
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**by household composition**

Households with children	£1,457,484	27,544	18,223
Households with pensioners	£15,976	151	102
Households with a disabled person	£921,561	6,929	4,388
Other Households	£87,119	855	591
Total	£2,482,140	35,479	23,304

**by category**

Food excluding FSM	£704,688	6,115	3,376
FSM support in the holidays	£697,020	3,848	15,686
Energy and Water	£719,628	23,824	3,499
Wider Essentials	£360,804	1,692	743
Total	£2,482,140	35,479	23,304

**by types of support**

Vouchers	£2,264,112	34,488	22,914
Tangible Items	£218,028	991	390
Total	£2,482,140	35,479	23,304

**by access routes**

Application based support	£1,785,120	11,655	7,618
Proactive support	£697,020	23,824	15,686
Total	£2,482,140	35,479	23,304

2. Please provide a breakdown of how tranche four was spent:
  - a) Targeted Grants (by targeted grants we mean any direct grants/proactive support given to households that did not need to be applied) £0.
  - b) Free School Meal Holiday Vouchers £697,020
  - c) Direct applications to the scheme (this means the amount that was open to application, but not through your local welfare assistance scheme) £1,785,120.
  - d) Local Welfare Assistance Scheme £0.
  - e) Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations £0.
  - f) Advice Services £0.
  - g) Other (please clarify) £0.
3.
  - a) If you accepted applications to this fund how many did you receive? 6,225
  - b) How many applications were successful? 3,924
4. Excluding funding given to local welfare schemes or third-party organisations, how much of the HSF did you spend on helping people with furniture and appliances? £226,463
5. How much did you spend on:
  - a) Vouchers £2,264,112
  - b) Cash awards £0
  - c) Third party organisations £0
  - d) In kind furniture support £102,900
  - e) In kind support for other purposes £123,563
  - f) Other £0
6. How much do you plan to spend on free school meal vouchers in the holidays in 2024/25? If HSF is not renewed in September, will you continue with the vouchers for the second half of the year? And if so, how will you be funding it?
  - No planned expenditure on Free School Meals
7. Did you take on additional staff for HSF 4 and if so are these staff likely to be retained for HSF 5?
  - No additional staff
8. To what extent does the short notice of the availability of funding inhibit the planning and delivery activity of HSF (e.g. internal finance and policy decision making, resource requirements, engagement with internal departments and external partners)?
  - Policy decision making and securing approval of expenditure plan.
  - Delay in the distribution of funds to residents.
9. When HSF 5 ends, what do you expect the impact to be on:
  - Resources - Yes
  - Local Welfare Provision scheme - Yes
  - Communities - Yes