

Freedom of Information Team
Oxford City Council
Email: freedomofinformation@oxford.gov.uk

www.oxford.gov.uk



20 December 2024

Freedom of Information Request, Oxford City Council – Reference: **FOI2024/01356**

Further to our acknowledgement, we can confirm that Oxford City Council can advise as follows in response to your Freedom of Information Request received on 10 December:

Request

Hello,

I'd like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act, please.

According to two clauses added to the "Homelessness code of guidance for local authorities" by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (under its old name of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) in February 2024, "accommodation will not be suitable for a household with children under the age of 2 if there is not adequate space for a cot for each child aged under 2", and "where households with babies and young children under 2 do not have access to a cot when placed in temporary accommodation, housing authorities should consider what support is available for the provision of a cot."

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homelessness-code-of-guidance-for-local-authorities/chapter-17-suitability-of-accommodation#:~:text=Cots%20in%20temporary%20accommodation&text=This%20may%20involve%20housing%20authorities,a%20result%20of%20domestic%20abuse>.

With this in mind, please tell me:

How many temporary accommodation is the council using as of today's date to accommodate households with at least one child under the age of two?

25 on 16/12/24.

Of these units, as of today's date:

How many have been assessed as having adequate space for a cot?

All of them.

How many have been assessed as NOT having adequate space for a cot?

None – all have been assessed as suitable.

How many have not been assessed for whether or not there is space for a cot?

How many families with children aged under two at the time of placement have been placed in temporary accommodation since February 2024?

53 families.

Of these, how many families did not have their own cots and what provisions was the council able to make for them? (This information can be supplied as totals - for instance, X number of households had a cot provided, Y number of households were given guidance on how to obtain a cot, etc.)

Families can be placed in hotels or self-contained temporary accommodation (TA) owned/managed by OCC. Hotels are avoided where possible but if there is nothing more suitable available a hotel will be provided until a self-contained unit can be found. When placing a family into TA the size of the family and hotel or property will be considered.

OCC provides support to customers in TA. There are also a range of charities who also help families who need help purchasing essential items as well as Oxfordshire County Council if they are working with a family in need. A household support fund can also be access essential items.

A family would normally have their own cot, unless they have a new born baby, hotels can provide cots for babies in an emergency/in the short term or other services if they are placed into self-contained temporary accommodation.

OCC has no records of being asked for help with the provision of a cot during this period.

If you disagree with any part of the response to your request, you are entitled to ask the Council for an internal review of the decision(s) made. You may do this by writing to the Monitoring Officer, by either email monitoringofficer@oxford.gov.uk – or by post to Monitoring Officer, Oxford City Council, Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford, OX1 1BX. After the result of the internal review, if you remain dissatisfied, you may ask the Information Commissioner to intervene on your behalf. You may do this by writing to the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Officer

| Freedom of Information Team | Law & Governance | Oxford City Council | Town Hall | St Aldate's
| Oxford | OX1 1BX |