

REQUEST AND RESPONSE

**1. Does the Council use B&B's to temporarily house prison leavers?**

Rarely (see Q3 below). There are a fluctuating number of B&B's that the Council can use at any given time but persons leaving prison are referred to a local private nightshelter who are best equipped to deal with their housing needs. It should be borne in mind that different legislation applies in England to Wales and persons being discharged from prison where the English legislation applies are not automatically classed as having priority need for accommodation and therefore there is no automatic duty on English Councils to provide accommodation upon release from prison.

**2. What guidelines are used i.e what is standard procedure when someone who released from prison presents themselves as homeless to you?**

Prison leavers are treated no differently from any other person. An assessment is carried out to determine if the person is eligible to apply for assistance and if so, enquires are made to establish if the person is indeed, homeless and if so, is there reason to believe the person has a priority need for accommodation. If there is reason to believe the person has a priority need, the Council has a duty to provide interim accommodation whilst further enquiries are made. If not, the Council only has a duty to provide advice and assistance to help the person make their own arrangements. In this area, the nightshelter referred to above will take in persons leaving prison and the prisons themselves will refer people to this establishment.

**3. How many prison leavers have been placed in temporary B&B accommodation in the last 5 years?**

There have been 2 placements of the same person in 2009-10 (a female, pregnant offender). None since.

**4. When prison leavers are placed in temporary B&B is a risk assessment undertaken, if so by who and how is this information shared with the proprietor of the B&B?**

Apart from the 1 person referred to in Q3, all prison leavers have been referred directly or indirectly to the nightshelter referred to in Q2 above. The nightshelter carries out their own risk assessments and support plans for their residents.

**5. Does the proprietor of the B&B receive any training in dealing with offenders?**

It is believed the manager of the nightshelter has had adequate training. The proprietor is non-resident but the manager lives in on site. It is a private business that does not receive grant funding from the Council so there is no contract in place with the Council or role for the Council in overseeing it save for its need to have a licence to operate as a House in Multiple Occupation .

**6. Do these establishments continue to operate as normal B&B whilst housing prison leavers?**

The nightshelter has a licence to operate in the way it does and it would be breaching the licence if it took non-single households, e.g families with children.

7. **What are the names of the B&B's used to temporarily house prison leavers in your jurisdiction.**

The nightshelter is called the Frandon.