

48/14

REQUEST

I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please could you send me:

1. The value of the award received from Government from 1st April 2013 to take on responsibility and cover all associated costs for the crisis loan scheme from the Department of Work and Pensions.
2. The amount that has been awarded to recipients from this funding up to the end of December 2013.
3. Details of the scheme that has been set up to replace the previous DWP model – i.e. the discretionary crisis fund.
4. Details on whether the scheme is being run in-house or sub-contracted. If it is being sub-contracted could you name the provider(s).
5. The cost of administering the scheme.

RESPONSE

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request. From April 2013 changes to welfare support meant that two discretionary elements of the 'Social Fund' - Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants were no longer be available from The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). Instead the upper tier local authorities Essex County Council, Thurrock District Council and Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, have taken on the responsibility of delivering an alternative, localised scheme.

The new 'Essential Living Fund' is now administered by Southend-On-Sea Borough Council for the whole Essex area, with funding from The Department of Work and Pensions. You will therefore need to redirect your enquiry to Southend on Sea Borough Council www.southend.gov.uk