

# East Lothian Council

FOI Ref: 2018/547832

## ***NRPF – No Recourse to Public Funds***

***1. How many residents with NRPF were offered financial assistance by the local authority in each of the following financial years?***

***2011-12***

***2012-13***

***2013-14***

***2014-15***

***2015-16***

***2016-17***

***2017-18***

***2. How much money in total was provided in financial support to residents with NRPF during each of the above financial years?***

Benefits:

East Lothian Council's (ELC) Benefits service have advised that there is no financial support offered under Housing Benefit/Council Tax Reduction or Scottish Welfare Fund to people who have no recourse to public funds.

Children's Services:

ELC's Children's Services have advised that financial assistance has been offered to young people with no recourse to public funds during the specified time frame. Although ELC holds further information about these incidents, it is exempt from disclosure under Section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. This exemption relates to personal information. When information is released as the result of a freedom of information request it is technically released to the general public, and not just to the person or organisation making the information request. East Lothian is a small, rural area and in this instance, the number of residents concerned is such a small number (i.e.: less than 5) and the young people concerned may be particularly visible and vulnerable within communities. In view of this, we fear that releasing further information would potentially lead to their identification.

Homelessness:

ELC's Housing Access Team works under the guidance of the homelessness legislation and Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 in the provision of homelessness advice and assistance. Therefore, they are unable to assist a person who has No Recourse to Public Funds. People who approach the service would be advised to refer to their Embassy for advice. If there were children in the household, ELC would involve colleagues in Children's Services (Social Work Children and Families) to assess if they had a duty under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.