

58034

Request for information regarding the use of Section 12 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, which allows local authorities to provide financial assistance to individuals in need.

Could you please provide the following information for the past three financial years (2022/23, 2023/24, and 2024/25) where possible:

Any internal guidance, policy documents and eligibility criteria used by Edinburgh Council staff when administering Section 12 payments.

[Please see the guidance attached.](#)

Whether Section 12 payments are offered proactively by social work staff or only upon request

[On request or where a social worker identifies a need when working with someone](#)

Whether Section 12 payments are used to support individuals with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), and if so, under what circumstances

[The City of Edinburgh Council's approach to working with adults with no recourse to public funds and the criteria used for assessing their eligibility for a s. 12 payment is outlined in appendix 7 of this report to the Councils Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee.](#)

The total number of Section 12 payments made by the City of Edinburgh Council.

[We do not hold this information.](#)

The total monetary value of Section 12 payments issued each year.

[The total monetary value of Section 12 payments.](#)

2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
69,105.76	39,515.25	18,174.86

The average payment amount per recipient.

[We do not hold this information.](#)

The number of applications received for Section 12 support

[We do not hold this information.](#)

The number and proportion of applications approved

[We do not hold this information.](#)

A breakdown of the reasons for refusal if this information is recorded.

[Individual files would need to be reviewed to ascertain if this information was recorded. The main reasons would be that we can signpost to other services like food banks instead of giving section 12; that people may have chosen to spend their income on other items rather](#)

than supporting their basic needs or that an individual is a frequent attender asking for funds and this is more about money management.