

Request

1. Please provide us with a copy of the management information return you are required to provide to the DWP for tranche four of the Household Support Fund.
2. Please provide a breakdown of how tranche four was spent:
 - a. Targeted Grants (by targeted grants we mean any direct grants/proactive support given to households that did not need to be applied)
 - b. Free School Meal Holiday Vouchers
 - c. Direct applications to the scheme (this means the amount that was open to application, but not through your local welfare assistance scheme)
 - d. Local Welfare Assistance Scheme
 - e. Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations
 - f. Advice Services
 - g. Other (please clarify)
3.
 - a. If you accepted applications to this fund how many did you receive?
 - b. How many applications were successful?
4. Excluding funding given to local welfare schemes or third-party organisations, how much of the HSF did you spend on helping people with furniture and appliances?
5. How much did you spend on:
 - a. Vouchers
 - b. Cash awards
 - c. Third party organisations
 - d. In kind furniture support
 - e. In kind support for other purposes
 - f. Other
6. How much do you plan to spend on free school meal vouchers in the holidays in 2024/25? If HSF is not renewed in September, will you continue with the vouchers for the second half of the year? And if so, how will you be funding it?
7. Did you take on additional staff for HSF 4 and if so are these staff likely to be retained for HSF 5?
8. To what extent does the short notice of the availability of funding inhibit the planning and delivery activity of HSF (e.g. internal finance and policy decision making, resource requirements, engagement with internal departments and external partners)?
9. When HSF 5 ends, what do you expect the impact to be on:
 - Resources
 - Local Welfare Provision scheme
 - External partner agencies
 - Communities

Response

Please see attached HSF4 MI Report and responses as requested.

<p>These questions specifically pertain to the funding allocated to English Local Authorities as part of the UK Household Support Fund from 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024. We understand that the late announcement of the extension of the Household Support Fund may mean that you are still making spending decisions. However, we hope that our report will influence any further extension of HSF so we need to gather our data asap to publish our report in the summer.</p> <p>Please answer as many questions as you can and if you are unable to answer any, please let us know when that information will be available and whether we need to submit a fresh FOI to obtain it.</p> <p>There have been four tranches of the Household Support Fund so far, we are referring to the fourth tranche. We believe you were awarded £5,636,469 as part of this tranche.</p>	Response	Notes
1. Please provide us with a copy of the management information return you are required to provide to the DWP for tranche four of the Household Support Fund.	Copy attached	
2. Please provide a breakdown of how tranche four was spent:		
a. Targeted Grants (by targeted grants we mean any direct grants/proactive support given to households that did not need to be applied)	£4,117,694.00	
b. Free School Meal Holiday Vouchers	£2,545,350.00	
c. Direct applications to the scheme (this means the amount that was open to application, but not through your local welfare assistance	£1,156,252.00	
d. Local Welfare Assistance Scheme	£0.00	
e. Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations	£0.00	
f. Advice Services	£0.00	
g. Other (please clarify)	£79,281.00	Appliances & income maximisation events
3		
a. If you accepted applications to this fund how many did you receive?	53111	
b. How many applications were successful?	53111	
4. Excluding funding given to local welfare schemes or third-party organisations, how much of the HSF did you spend on helping people with furniture and appliances?	£36,394.00	Appliances
5. How much did you spend on:		
a. Vouchers	£3,186,828.00	
b. Cash awards	£2,130,005.00	
c. Third party organisations	£0.00	
d. In kind furniture support	£0.00	
e. In kind support for other purposes	£0.00	
f. Other	£36,394.00	Appliances

6. How much do you plan to spend on free school meal vouchers in the holidays in 2024/25? If HSF is not renewed in September, will you continue with the vouchers for the second half of the year? And if so, how will you be funding it?	£1,650,000.00	We will not be able to continue with vouchers for the second half of the year if HSF is not renewed after September as we do not have sufficient budget to support via our LWS
7. Did you take on additional staff for HSF 4 and if so are these staff likely to be retained for HSF 5?	No additional staff	
8. To what extent does the short notice of the availability of funding inhibit the planning and delivery activity of HSF (e.g. internal finance and policy decision making, resource requirements, engagement with internal departments and external partners)?	The short notice significantly inhibits the planning and delivery of activity of HSF linked to internal finance and policy decision making, resource requirements, engagement with internal departments and external partners.	
9. When HSF 5 ends, what do you expect the impact to be on:		
* Resources	Resources will be focused on Local Welfare Support and Income Maximisation	
* Local Welfare Provision scheme	Limited available budget will not be sufficient to respond to the need for support	
* External partner agencies	External partner agencies will experience significant demand from residents who have previously been supported via HSF and will not be able to provide the ongoing support required	
* Communities	Our residents will continue to struggle with the ongoing cost of living crisis and our communities will feel the impact of much needed funds no longer being provided via HSF	

HSF4 Spend

Notes

The totals cells which autopopulate have been greyed out and locked for editing. Please only input into the green cells.

The totals in the autopopulated cells of tables 6 to 9 must be the same for the return to be compliant.

Please input values in full (e.g. 120,000.00) to enable us to process the return accordingly. Only numbers (eg 123) can be entered into each cell. If any other format is inputted an error message will appear.

The traffic light system will help you ensure the template is compliant. For the return to be compliant, all traffic lights must be green with a white tick.

If there is no spend to report, in order to enable the green light with white tick next to each table, the cells should still be completed with 0 (zero as a numerical value rather than typing out 'NIL', for example). This will help us process the return promptly for you.

'Has the spend tab been completed correctly?' - the traffic light will turn green with a white tick once Tables 5 to 9 are compliant.

The acronym FSM used in the tables below refers to Free School Meals.

5) Total administration spend

Admin spend

£ 299,945.00



Traffic light check

Has the spend tab been completed correctly?



6) Total spend (£) split by household composition

Households with children (£)	Households with pensioners (£)	Households with a disabled person (£)	Other households (£)	Total amount provided to vulnerable households (by household composition) (£)
£ 3,405,127.77	£ 1,238,489.48	£ 208,783.67	£ 500,826.08	£ 5,353,227.00

7) Total spend (£) split by category

Food (excluding FSM support in the holidays) (£)	FSM support in the holidays (£)	Energy and water (£)	Essentials linked to energy and water (£)	Wider essentials (£)	Housing costs (£)	Advice services (£)	Total amount provided to vulnerable households (by category) (£)
£ 451,754.50	£ 2,545,350.00	£ 2,319,728.50	£ -	£ 36,394.00	£ -	£ -	£ 5,353,227.00

8) Total spend (£) split by types of support

Vouchers (£)	Cash awards (£)	Third party organisations (£)	Tangible items (£)	Other (£)	Total amount provided to vulnerable households (by types of support) (£)
£ 3,186,828.00	£ 2,130,005.00	£ -	£ 36,394.00	£ -	£ 5,353,227.00

9) Total spend (£) split by access routes

Application-based support (£)	Proactive support (£)	Other (£)	Total amount provided to vulnerable households (by access routes) (£)
£ 1,156,252.00	£ 4,117,694.00	£ 79,281.00	£ 5,353,227.00