



Following today's report in the Daily Telegraph regarding Council's spending on gaming consoles and yoga classes etc, I am requesting detailed financial information regarding the expenditure of taxpayer money on support for refugees, illegal immigrants, and asylum seekers. Specifically, I require information on the following:

1. Total expenditure:

A breakdown of the total amount of taxpayer money spent on supporting refugees, asylum seekers, and illegal immigrants in the financial year 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.

2022/23 £1.809m
2023/24 £4.074m
TOTAL £5.883m
Funding is provided by Central Government to Wigan Council

2. Detailed breakdown: A detailed breakdown of this expenditure, including but not limited to the following categories:

The breakdown of the £5.883m spend is:

- Housing costs (rent/council properties).
- Food provisions.
- Educational programs/support.
- Healthcare provision (including associated costs).
- Employment support/training/programs.
- Any other support programs associated with housing/integration/support of these groups.

	£M
Staffing	466
Housing	5,410
Grants	<u>7</u>
TOTAL	<u>5,883</u>

3. Specific projects:

If available evidence exists of any individual projects or initiatives intended to support refugee, asylum seeker, and illegal immigrant communities, the financial breakdown of such projects and their objectives would be welcomed.

The Grant figure of £7k include payments to local groups who support the asylum community and also help with English lessons.

4. Comparison with comparable costs/usage across local authorities:

A comparative analysis of Wigan's expenditure relating to the mentioned categories, to similar-sized boroughs across the UK would be extremely valuable in forming a clearer understanding of the budgetary context of these outlays. This information should be clearly presented if available.

This information is not available within time frame.

I understand that this request may involve significant data collation. I request a reasonable timeframe for response and will be happy to discuss any potential restrictions or limitations with regards to the requested information.