**Request Reference: 17180078**

**Date received: 11 April 2017**

**Date response sent: 9 May 2017**

**1. Please can I have the number of residents awarded welfare assistance or crisis payments to specifically assist with basic food costs? Please can I have a breakdown of this information for each year between 2008-2017?**

As part of its programme of welfare reforms Department for Work and Pensions took the decision to abolish the Community Care Grant and Crisis Loan elements of the Social Fund from April 2013.

The new “Local Welfare Assistance” or Crisis Support scheme as it’s called in Torbay was introduced from April 2013. Funding previously used to support Community Care Grants and Crisis Loan elements of the Social Fund was then allocated to upper-tier local authorities in England and to the devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales.

Prior to April 2013, Crisis Loans were interest free loans of up to £1,500, available to anyone over 16 years old who did not have “sufficient resources to meet the immediate short term needs” of themselves and/or their family. This included living expenses arising from an emergency, such as basic food costs.

From April 2013, Torbay’s Crisis Support scheme has provided assistance with food requests through referrals to local food banks, not cash payments.

The cost and number of requests of these referrals since 2013 are as follows;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Cost (£)** | **Number of Referrals** |
| 2013/14 | 21,581.00 | 1,015 |
| 2014/15 | 33,140.00 | 851 |
| 2015/16 | 27,887.50 | 532 |
| 2016/17 | 7,702.50 | 207 |