**Request Reference: 16171292**

**Date received: 4 January 2017**

**Date response sent: 19 January 2017**

**Under the Freedom of Information Act 2003 I am seeking information about**

**applications for the Discretionary Housing Payment.**

**1. What is the total discretionary housing payment budget available to the council for 2014/2015 financial year [include, and specify, any additional funds granted]?**

£393,863

**2. What is the total discretionary housing payment budget available to the council for 2015/2016 financial year [include, and specify, any additional funds granted]?**

£256,928

**3. What is the total discretionary housing payment budget available to the council for 2016/2017 financial year [include, and specify, any additional funds granted]?**

£328,445

**4. Did your council exceed its government Discretionary Housing Payment allocation in the 2015/2016 financial year? If so, by how much?**

Expenditure was just below allocation at £256,815

**5. Did your council exceed its government Discretionary Housing Payment allocation in the 2014/2015 financial year? If so, by how much?**

Expenditure was just below allocation at £392,189

**6. How many applications for the Discretionary Housing Payment in 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 were successful because of the benefit cap?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Number of successful applications** |
| **2014** | 7 |
| **2015** | 10 |

**7. How many households have you predicted will be affected by the new lower benefit cap which started to be rolled out in November 2016 and will finish being implemented in 2017?**

DWP provided estimates for each local authority in May 2016 and September 2016. It was estimated that Torbay would have around 230 new households affected by the new cap levels.