

**Torridge** – a great place to live, work and visit

Riverbank House, Bideford, Devon, EX39 2QG

Parish Clerks

By email



**Our Ref:**

**Your Ref:**

**Date:** 2 October 2024

Dear Parish Clerk

**RE: Annual Rough Sleeper Estimate**

Since autumn 2010 all local authorities have been required to submit an annual figure indicating the numbers of people sleeping rough in their area. They can do this by choosing to conduct a count-based estimate, an evidence-based estimate, or an evidence-based estimate including a spotlight count of the number of people rough sleeping in their area on a typical night.

**We are carrying out an evidence-based estimate including a spotlight count, and the typical night we have chosen is the night of the 11<sup>th</sup> November into the morning of the 12<sup>th</sup> November.**

It is important that this single snapshot figure estimate is as robust as possible. To this end, we are liaising with key local agencies who are likely to have information about who is sleeping rough on a typical night. I am contacting you to ask if the Parish or Town Council can tell us about any rough sleepers in your area.

For the purposes of submitting an annual figure on a typical night, the Government defines people sleeping rough as:

‘People sleeping, about to bed down (sitting on/in or standing next to their bedding) or actually bedded down in the open air (such as on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments). People in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or “bashes”).’

Any information that you share will help to ensure that we use a wide range of reliable intelligence to arrive at our annual figure. I would ask that you please provide me with any information you have about the rough sleepers in your area by 6<sup>th</sup> November, as this will then give us a few days before our typical night to try and engage with people sleeping

rough that we do not already know about. I will need to know some details about the people you believe are sleeping rough and you may wish to use the form attached. I can be contacted on tel. 01237 428843. If you would prefer to contact me by email, please ensure that you password protect the document and email me at [helen.page@torridge.gov.uk](mailto:helen.page@torridge.gov.uk).

If you are not aware of any rough sleepers in your area, then it would also be helpful for you to tell me this.

The information you provide will be shared at a Rough Sleeping Consultation Meeting that is to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> November. This meeting will be attended by Torridge District Council and other key agencies who work with rough sleepers.

Many thanks for your assistance.

Yours faithfully

*H A Page*

**Helen Page**

Housing Options Manager

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