

Press release: James Brokenshire confirms funding to help people off the streets

- Investment totalling £46 million allocated to 246 areas nationwide – providing an estimated 750 additional staff and over 2,600 new beds in total
- Funding will be used for additional staff and outreach and accommodation services
- This now means that over three-quarters of local authorities in England are covered by specialist Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) funding

Councils across the country will share over £46 million to help get people off the streets and into accommodation, Communities Secretary, Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP has confirmed today (25 March 2019).

The money forms part of the government's £100 million Rough Sleeping Strategy and will be used to fund rough sleeping coordinator roles, add new or additional outreach services and extend existing or provide new temporary accommodation. This includes night shelters and hostel spaces. There is also an opportunity to provide housing-led solutions such as Housing First services.

This funding includes £34 million for the 83 Rough Sleeping Areas and an additional £12 million for other areas of the country, demonstrating this government's commitment to tackling the issue and ending rough sleeping once and for all.

Across all areas, it is estimated that the money will provide funding for up to:

- 110 rough sleeping coordinators to improve local handling of the issue
- 300 outreach workers
- 350 other support and specialist roles
- over 1,400 new emergency bed spaces, including winter night shelter provision
- over 700 new long-term beds, including in the private rented sector and supported housing
- more than 500 new temporary spaces, through hostels for example
- over £2.5 million for spot-purchasing beds and increasing access to accommodation

Some projects will provide specialist support such as family reconnections, immigration advice or access to mental and physical health services.

Others will focus on providing services for specific groups of people, such as vulnerable women, those transitioning from leaving care or people trying to get their life back on track after leaving prison.

Communities Secretary, Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP said:

The £100 million-backed Rough Sleeping Strategy sets out this government's blueprint for ending rough sleeping for good.

We are taking the necessary steps to make that happen, already providing 2,600 additional beds and 750 more support staff for the most vulnerable people in our society.

But we must keep up the momentum and that's why we are giving this funding to areas and projects that need it, ensuring progress continues to be made and people are given the help they need to turn their lives around.

This is all part of the government's [Rough Sleeping Initiative](#), launched last spring, which is providing over £45 million to councils over the next 2 years to support rough sleepers in their area off the streets and into secure accommodation where they can get the help they need to rebuild their lives.

In [August 2018](#), the government unveiled its [Rough Sleeping Strategy](#), which sets out the next steps towards achieving the aim of supporting everyone off the streets and into a home and to end rough sleeping for good, backed by £100 million of funding.

As outlined in the Rough Sleeping Strategy, the government has provided £45 million for the Rough Sleeping Initiative fund.

This consists of £34 million for the 83 authorities with the highest number of rough sleepers and a further £12 million set aside for spending on other areas and projects in the 2019-20 year.

The additional £1 million will be funded from within existing budgets.

See the [Rough Sleeping Initiative funding allocations](#) (PDF, 171KB, 6 pages)

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Councils across the country will share over £46 million to help get people off the streets and into accommodation.

Press release: CMA leads Europe-wide action on car hire

CMA holds big 5 car hire firms to account and takes action against 2 Spanish companies.

Press release: CMA leads Europe-wide action on car hire

People renting a car from Europe's 5 biggest hire companies can now do so with more confidence following CMA-led action. Firms including Europcar and Sixt have made changes to deliver on previous commitments about how they display charges and other key information on their websites, so people will now know exactly how much they are paying upfront.

The move comes after a CMA review of whether the companies were complying with commitments they made to be clearer about their prices, in some cases about charges that people can't avoid when renting a car. This found the firms were still providing unclear information on some of their websites.

In 2015, Avis Budget, Enterprise, Hertz, Sixt, and Europcar made a [series of commitments](#) to the CMA, European Commission and other consumer enforcement authorities across Europe. These included providing customers with the total price they will pay at the start of the booking process and clearer information about any other costs, such as excess amounts and deposits. But, after reviewing the firms' practices, the CMA found that in some cases customers could still be hit by hidden costs or misled by unclear information.

After leading a Europe-wide project to address these concerns, the CMA is now satisfied that the 5 companies are making the necessary changes to make sure that key information is displayed clearly and prominently. These changes will also apply to Goldcar following its recent acquisition by Europcar, and, as this action has been taken across Europe, consumers across the EU will benefit from CMA's work.

George Lusty, Senior Director for Consumer Protection at the CMA, said:

No one should be misled or caught out by hidden fees when renting a car.

The big 5 told us in 2015 they would update their practices, but we've found they weren't doing all that they'd committed to. Following our further intervention, the charges people see on the big 5's websites will be clear, prominent and accurate, allowing customers to choose the best possible deal for them.

We'll keep the firms under close review to ensure they deliver on their commitments.

The CMA has also taken separate action against 2 Spanish car hire companies following concerns that UK holidaymakers were being misled by their practices. Centauro Rent-A-Car and Record Go Alquiler Vacacional have now agreed to improve the way they display information on their websites, ensuring that they include all compulsory charges upfront.

George Lusty continued:

If a firm sells to UK customers, they do so under UK law and must answer to it.

We are prepared to act if we find any that any company is misleading UK customers – be it based in the UK or abroad.

This is the latest in a series of actions the CMA has carried out since 2015 in the car rental industry. Other examples include securing an estimated £100 million in benefits for UK customers following its initial investigation into the Big 5's practices, and enforcement action against a number of car hire comparison sites.

The CMA has also published [advice for car hire businesses](#) to help them comply with consumer law, as well as [advice for consumers](#) on what to watch out for when renting a vehicle.

Notes to Editors:

1. The key pieces of consumer protection legislation relevant to the CMA's investigation are the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 (CPRs) and Part 2 of the Consumer Rights Act 2015. The CPRs contain a general prohibition against unfair commercial practices and specific prohibitions against misleading actions, misleading omissions and aggressive commercial practices. Part 2 of the Consumer Rights Act aims to protect consumers from unfair contract terms, and requires contract terms to be fair and transparent.
2. The companies involved are Avis Budget Group, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Hertz Europe Limited, Sixt SE and Europcar Mobility Group (which acquired Goldcar in 2017). For more information, see the [summary of areas where further changes were required to be made](#).
3. The CMA has not made a finding on whether the practices it is concerned about breach consumer protection law. All of the companies concerned agreed to make changes to their practices after the CMA raised its

concerns. If necessary, the CMA can take action through the courts to enforce consumer law under Part 8 of the Enterprise Act 2002. Ultimately, only a court can rule that a particular term or practice infringes the law.

4. The CMA will continue to encourage compliance with consumer law in this sector in line with its published prioritisation principles.
5. Media enquiries should be directed to press@cma.gov.uk or 020 3738 6460.
6. For CMA updates, follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Press release: Co-op Breached Code finds Groceries Code Adjudicator

The Adjudicator publishes her report into the compliance of Co-operative Group Limited with the Groceries Supply Code of Practice.