

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 000121
Date 6 May 2016

Special Guardianship Court Orders and Serious Case Reviews

Request:

Please note that we are classifying children as anyone **under the age of 18**.

1a) How many children were placed with relatives through a Special Guardianship Court Order between **01/01/2015 and 31/12/2015**?

Ten children were placed in the year.

1b) On average, how long did the assessment for the Special Guardianship Order take for relatives? Please specify the longest and shortest period of time an assessment took to process which resulted in a placement being made

Average time – 227 days

Longest time – 292 days

Shortest time – 153 days

1c) On average, how many times a month after the child was placed with a relative as a Special Guardian were they visited by the local authority? Please provide the number of visits for each case.

Zero. Children are not normally visited after a Special Guardianship Order has been granted unless this is part of a SGO support plan.

2) How many children were placed with relatives through a Special Guardianship Court Order between **01/01/2014 and 31/12/2014**?

Twenty two children placed in the year.

3) How many children were placed with relatives through a Special Guardianship Court Order between **01/01/2013 and 31/12/2013**?

Twenty three children placed in the year.

4) How many children were placed with relatives through a Special Guardianship Court Order between **01/01/2009 and 31/12/2009**?

With reference to question 4 above, the Council regrets to inform you that it has decided not to disclose this information.

Information you have requested has been withheld from disclosure. The exemption engaged is Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

Section 12 of the FOI exempts Public Authorities from providing information where the estimated cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. Any estimate must be undertaken in accordance with the limits set in fees regulations made under Section 12 (5) of the FOI.

These Fees Regulations (SI 2004/3244 Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations) allow for a refusal where the cost of compliance, for local authorities such as the Council, would exceed £450. As a guide, staff time to identify and extract this information is charged at a rate of £25 per hour.

In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

- “(a) determining whether it holds the information,
- (b) locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,
- (c) retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information, and
- (d) extracting the information from a document containing it”.

In summary to provide the information you have requested it would take us at least 70 hours to compile as we do not hold this information in a reportable format and therefore we would have to carry out a manual check of around 2,000 to 3,000 records.

5) How many Serious Case Reviews have been carried out into the deaths of children between **01/01/2013 and 31/12/2015**?

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