

## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 000414  
Date            02 September 2016

### *Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children*

**Request:**

I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

Please would you provide me with:

1. a) the number of age assessments undertaken by the local authority for unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) in the following financial years:
  - i) 2014/15
  - ii) 2015/16
- b) the number of these age assessments by outcome, i.e.
  - i) thought to be under 18
  - ii) thought to be over 18
  - iii) any other outcomes (e.g. unknown, doubtful)
2. The top five biggest discrepancies in years between
  - i) the UASC's stated date of birth
  - ii) the LA's assessed date of birth

During the 2015/16 financial year only.

In response to your request, we have established that the Council is unable to provide this information as it is not collected or recorded in a reportable format. Thus we are unable to provide any information relating to the above, and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("The Act"), that states:

"Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request..."

To undertake this work would exceed the statutory cost limit under Section 12 of the Act.

Section 12 of the Act 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 Act.

To clarify further, any information regarding UASC would be held at individual file level and the Council have no way of collecting this information, other than to go through all the relevant and to search each individual file.

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.