



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 000426
Date 09 September 2016

Children Removed From Care

Request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please could you provide me with information about the number of mothers who have had five or more children removed from their care over the past 10 years?

There were 56 mothers (in the past 10 completed financial years) who have had five or more children removed from their care.

Please also provide an indicator of how many had some or all of their children returned to their care?

In response to your request, we have established that the Council does not hold the above information 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, we do not hold the data in a reportable way and the Council have no way of collecting this information, other than to retrieve each individual file and go through all the notes in order to determine information. This requires a manual search, locating and retrieving information from over 300 child records and therefore we estimate it would take around 40 hours to provide this information.

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 (equivalent to 2.5 days of work). As a guide, staff time to identify and extract this information is charged at a rate of £25 per hour.

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Please could you also provide me with information about the number of children removed from the care of the mother who has had the most children looked-after?

The mother who has had the most children looked-after had 9 children removed from her care.