

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 000617
Date 18 November 2016

Looked-after Children (LAC) - Applications to Register as a British Citizen

Request:

I apply under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act for the following information:

In each calendar year since 2011, how many of the following applications made by or on behalf of looked-after children have been submitted with application fees paid for by your local authority?

- applications to register as a British citizen 'by entitlement'
- applications to register as a British citizen 'at discretion'

We can confirm that the Council holds information falling within the description specified in your request. However, Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows a public authority to refuse a request if the cost of providing the information to the applicant would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information.

The Regulations provide that the appropriate limit to be applied to requests received by local authorities is £450 (equivalent to 18 hours of work). In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

- Determining whether it holds the information,*
- Locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
- Retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
and
- Extracting the information from a document containing it.*

For the purposes of the estimate the costs of performing these activities should be estimated at a rate of £25 per hour.

The information appertaining to applications made by or on behalf of looked-after children have been submitted with application fees paid for by your local authority is not easily accessible as we do not record this information in this format. To get the information would require a full scale look into all our LAC records, over 600, and this would be a manual exercise and as such we believe that the aggregated time it

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would take to collate the information would be in excess of 18 hours (equivalent to a notional cost of £450).

If you can narrow down your request the Council will look into the matter again and may be able to provide the information free of charge because it would cost less than the appropriate limit to do so. Any reformulated request the department receives from you will be treated as a fresh FOI request.