

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 000728
Date 28 December 2016

Children taken into Care

Request:

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

1. How many children did you take into care in the 2016 calendar year where the child's proximity to a dog was cited as a factor in the care proceedings?
For each child please state if the issue surrounded either the (a) potential danger of a dog attack, (b) the hygiene issues of living in close proximity to a dog or (c) both (a) and (b)?
2. For each child please state the breed of dog or dogs involved.

Note: If you cannot do a search of the total number of cases within 2015 without the request breaching the cost limit under FoI please limit your inquiry to just the first 20 care cases in 2016. Please inform me that this reduced scope was the basis for the answer that you then provide.

In response to your request in regards to the above, we can confirm that following careful consideration, the Council regrets to inform you that it has decided not to disclose this information for the reasons set out below. Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires City of Wolverhampton Council, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states the fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies:

In relation to your particular request, the following exemption applies:

Section 12 - Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

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:

- (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.*

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 this request is not easily accessible and as such this information is not held as a distinct set able to be retrieved or reported on. To get the information would require a full scale look into all individual case records. This would be a manual exercise and as such we believe that the aggregated time it would take to collate the information would be in excess of 18 hours (equivalent to a notional cost of £450). However, having looked at the first 20 cases in 2016 calendar year, we can confirm that “child’s proximity to a dog” was not cited as a factor in any of the care proceedings.