

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 000830
Date 27 January 2017

Looked After Children

Request:

Please would you tell me:

1. The number of looked after children who had a missing incident in:
 - a) 2015 - 51
 - b) 2016 - 46

2. The number of missing periods of looked after children that lasted more than 30 days in:
 - a) 2015 – 2. 1 of 34 days, and 1 of 39 days
 - b) 2016 – 2. 1 of 31 days, and 1 of 40 days

For this question, please detail how long each missing period was.

3. The ages and genders of the top five looked after children to have had the most missing incidents in 2016?

In response to your question, we can confirm the request falls under Section 40(2), Personal Data, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as it asks for information 'other than that of the requester' and where disclosure would breach the data protection principles contained in the Data Protection Act 1998.

This exemption is applied as we consider that should this information be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, it could be used to identify individuals. By way of further explanation, although you have requested what is intended to be purely statistical information, and have not sought to directly obtain any personal information, we consider in this instance that, while we can confirm that we hold the relevant information, it is correct to refuse disclosure of individual information due to low numbers.

As a result, such a disclosure would be a breach of the First Principle under the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA); that is the fair and lawful processing of personal information. Consequently we have made the decision to withhold this information under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please discard question 3) if you feel it would breach data protection.

I would prefer this to be in calendar years but financial years (2014/15 and 2015/16) would be acceptable.