

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 000965
Date 14 March 2017

Agency Social Workers

Request:

I am sending this request under the Freedom of Information Act. This request concerns the spending by your authority on agency social workers.

- 1) Please state the total amount spent by your authority's children's services department on agency social workers in each of the following financial years. [The following are payments made during each financial year are for agency staff :](#)

i)	2012-13 –	
	Children & Young People	£1.6 million
	Disability & Mental Health*	£963,000
	Older People	£1.2 million
ii)	2013-14 –	
	Children & Young People	£2.2 million
	Disability & Mental Health*	£880,000
	Older People	£865,000
iii)	2014-15 –	
	Children & Young People	£3.2 million
	Disability & Mental Health*	£1.2 million
	Older People	£1.1 million
iv)	2015-16	
	Children & Young People	£3.1 million
	Disability & Mental Health*	£1.2 million
	Older People	£1.3 million
v)	2016-17 to 1 st March 2017 -	
	Children & Young People	£2.8 million
	Disability & Mental Health*	£985,000
	Older People	£1.3 million

[Please note the amounts detailed above relate to all agency staff not just social workers as this information is not available.](#)

[*Disability and Mental Health Services include both children and adult services.](#)

- 2) Please state the total amount spent by your authority's adult services department on agency social workers in each of the following financial years.
- i) 2012-13
 - ii) 2013-14
 - iii) 2014-15

- iv) 2015-16
 - v) 2016-17 to 1st March 2017
- As above

- 3) Please state the total amount spent by other departments of your local authority that employ social workers on agency social workers in each of the following financial years.

This may include, for example, hospital social workers.

- i) 2012-13
- ii) 2013-14
- iii) 2014-15
- iv) 2015-16
- v) 2016-17 to 1st March 2017

As above

- 4) Please state the average period of time individual agency social workers spent working at your local authority in the 2016-17 financial year to date. Please provide a figure in days.

You might respond for example, that the average placement length of an agency social worker within your authority was 30 days.

Please provide figures for your:

- a) Children's services department
- b) Adults services department

Following reasonable enquiries, it has been established that the Council does not hold the above requested information as it is not recorded in the format you have requested.

Consequently, we are unable to provide any information relating to the above, and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) (a) 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".

- 5) Please state the average daily cost to your authority of hiring an agency social worker in the 2016-17 financial year to date.

You might respond for example, that the average cost is £150 a day.

Please provide figures for your

- a) Children's services department
- b) Adults services department

We can confirm that the department holds information that you have asked for in relation to the above. However, the information is exempt under section 21 of the FOI Act because it is reasonably accessible to you, and I am pleased to inform you that you can access it on our website via the following link:

<http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=12025&p=0>

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act exempts disclosure of information that is reasonably accessible by other means, and the terms of the exemption mean that we do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest for you to have the information.

You can find out more about Section 21 by reading the extract from the Act, available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/21>