

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 001013
Date 28 March 2017

Unaccompanied and Separated Migrant Children Access to Legal Provision

Request:

In relation to looked after children:

1. For the calendar year 2016, how many unaccompanied asylum seeking children looked after by your local authority were

a)

Looked after and under 16 years of age	4
Looked after and aged 16 or 17	14
Care leavers aged 16-21	14

- b) And how many looked after unaccompanied asylum seeking children turned 18/left care but did not gain care leaver status?

3

2. How many unaccompanied children did your local authority received under the national transfer scheme in the calendar year 2016?

6

3. In the calendar year 2016

- a) please provide figures in relation to the numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children for whom you:

	Looked after unaccompanied asylum seeking children
Funded legal advice	9
Supported to access free legal advice	
Other (please specify)	

- b) when determining if a child needs immigration advice do you consult with an

- a. in-house legal team
- b. external legal counsel
- c. case by case basis

4. Do you have an internal policy, or written guidance outlining how you will facilitate access to immigration legal advice for looked after children in your care? **If yes, please attach**

In response to question 4, I can advise you that this information is exempt under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Future Publication - Information is exempt information if a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not).

In relation to children in private fostering arrangements and children receiving Section 17 and other forms of family support:

5. In the calendar year 2016

- a) How many children were in private foster arrangements within the local authority?

0

- b) How many children in private foster arrangements in 2016 became looked after?

0

- c) How many children in private foster care arrangements were subject to immigration control?

N/A

- d) Of children in private foster care who were subject to immigration control how many became looked after in 2016?

0

6. In the calendar year of 2016,

- a) How many children moved into your local authority to re-join family members under the Dublin III regulations?

9

- b) How many of the families in a) are currently receiving support under section 17 of the Children Act 1989?

2

- c) How many young people transferred through the Dublin regulations to your area have you subsequently taken into care after family breakdown?

0

7. In the calendar year 2016 please provide figures in relation to the immigration legal advice secured for the below children:

	Fund legal advice	Support to access free legal advice	Other (please specify)
Children in private foster care subject to immigration control	N/A		
Children, subject to immigration control, living with their family and receiving support through section 17 of the Children Act 1989 or other forms of family support.	4		
Immigration advice for children who have arrived in your local authority through a Dublin III transfer	N/A		
Immigration advice for children who have arrived in your local authority through a Dublin III transfer AND are receiving support through section 17 of the Children Act 1989.	N/A		

8. Do you have an internal policy, or written guidance outlining how you will facilitate access to:

a) Immigration legal advice for children living with their family in your local authority who are receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 or other forms of family support? **If yes, please attach**

In response to question 8a), I can advise you that this information is exempt under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Future Publication - Information is exempt information if a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not).

b) Immigration legal advice for children in private foster care in your local authority? **If yes, please attach**

No

In relation to trafficked children:

9. In the calendar year of 2016,

a) how many referrals did your local authority make to the National Referral Mechanism to report suspected cases of trafficking in relation to children?

2

b) how many of these referrals were for children subject to immigration control?

2