



## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 001124  
Date            10 May 2017

### *Unaccompanied Refugee Minors*

#### **Request:**

I am writing to you to ask a number of questions regarding local councils working to help unaccompanied refugee minors. I have numbered them so as to make them clearer.

1. I ask for you to release information as to the number of unaccompanied refugee minors that could be taken in by this local council for the period May 2017 until December 2017. How many unaccompanied minors could this council afford to provide care for, either based on past records, or on your verifiable assessment?

The 'ceiling' of total UASC who could be taken in by any local authority (according to national guidance) is 0.07% of the total child population of the LA. For Wolverhampton, this equates to 41 total UASC: The Council claims the government grant allocation per child to meet the placement costs. For this financial year (to 31/03/2018) the City of Wolverhampton has offered to take 5 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children as a contribution to the Government's long term plan.

There has been 1 UASC taken in between the start of the current financial year to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017.

2. I ask that you issue the data regarding the current council quota, how many unaccompanied minors you are taking in per month at the moment, and under which schemes (since July 2016)? By that, I mean, how many are taken on from other districts like Kent and how many are/were transferred through schemes like Dubs.

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=12275&p=0>

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.

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

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>

3. I further request information as to the amount of money this care costs per month per individual or money put towards unaccompanied minors per month, and what percentage of the council's overall budget this makes up.  
The care costs are covered by government grant so there is nil cost for care to the Council.

The 2016-17 rates can be found at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/561388/UASC\\_Funding\\_Instructions\\_2016-17\\_version\\_3.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/561388/UASC_Funding_Instructions_2016-17_version_3.pdf)