

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 001355
Date 26 July 2017

Embedded Home Office workers within the Local Authority

Request:

1. Please confirm what formal arrangements have been made permitting Home Office staff or immigration officers to be present at Local Authority Offices? Please provide copies of all documents in your possession relating to the presence of Home Office staff or immigration officers at Local Authority offices? This should, for the avoidance of doubt, include (but not be limited to) any Memorandum of Understanding, protocols, inter-departmental / inter-authority agreements.
2. Is immigration advice ever provided during the course of these meetings by the Home Office or the Local Authority staff?
3. If immigration advice is provided does the Local Authority monitor the accuracy of the advice given or the training of the Home Office staff member dispensing this advice?
4. For the period between 1 November 2016 and 30 April 2017 (inclusive), please provide the following information:
 - a) How many families approached your authority for a needs assessment and / or support?
 - b) How many of these families:
 - i) Have children who are British nationals?
 - ii) Have children who are subject to immigration control?
 - iii) Have parents who are subject to immigration control?
 - c) How many families were advised that the Home Office would be involved in the assessment?
 - d) By what method were they advised (eg, verbally, in writing)? Please provide copies of all documentation that explains the role of the Home Office to the (potential) service users. If the advice is provided verbally to the individuals, please confirm what verbal advice is given.
 - e) Of those advised that the Home Office would be involved in the assessment:
 - i) how many consented to the Home Office's involvement? How many did not?
 - ii) Please confirm whether written consent is required from the individuals. If so, please provide copies of consent form pro formas which the individuals are to sign to record consent. If written consent is not required,

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

- please explain how the individuals' consent is recorded, where it is recorded and who has access to such information as to consent.
- iii) How many assessments were not completed due to the parents/carers refusing to cooperate further after this advice was given?
 - iv) Of those who did not consent, please confirm whether the assessment was completed. If not, in what number of cases was assistance still provided to the family?
 - v) If the assessment was not completed, what further steps were taken to ensure there were no safeguarding concerns for the child/ren involved?

If any of the data for the above questions is for whatever reason is not possible to provide, please answers to the questions it is possible for you to answer. We are happy to clarify anything that would make the request easier.

Following reasonable enquiries, it has been established that the Council does not hold the above requested information.

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".