



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 001659
Date 06 November 2017

Safeguarding Alerts.

Request:

I would like to make a request under the freedom of information act.

My request is detailed below.

For each of the financial years 14/15, 15/16, 16/17 and 17/18 to November 1, what was the total number of safeguarding alerts your council received concerning people who are residents of sheltered housing or other supported living schemes?

For each of the financial years please include the age of the alleged victim within 10-year time-frames so as to preserve anonymity:

0-9, 10-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80-89, 90-99 and 100-109.

* Please state the nature of the alleged abuse. Was it:

- Physical abuse
- Domestic violence or abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Psychological or emotional abuse
- Financial or material abuse
- Modern slavery
- Discriminatory abuse
- Organisational or institutional abuse
- Neglect or acts of omission
- Self-neglect
- Other please state

* Was the alert substantiated or unsubstantiated?

* If substantiated, please state the action taken?

* Were police called?

* Was a prosecution brought?

For clarity I don't want data for residents of care homes. I am specifically looking for data on people who live in sheltered housing, supported living and any other similar schemes which assist people to live independently.

Your response should include all referrals you've received, including all council-run services and those provided by the independent/private sector.

In response to your request please find attached our response which shows the numbers of safeguarding concerns (where client has a service agreement in a supported living/VSH prior to that start of the SA1) for the years split into the various categories of alleged abuse asked for and whether this prompted an investigation to take place.

Given that the second part of the FOI asks for outcomes of investigations, the information has now been considered and the City of Wolverhampton Council is not obliged to supply the information you requested for the reasons set out below.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires City of Wolverhampton Council, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states the fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies:

In relation to your particular question, the following exemption applies:

Section 12 - Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

We can confirm that the Council holds information falling within the description specified in your request. However, Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows a public authority to refuse a request if the cost of providing the information to the applicant would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information.

The Regulations provide that the appropriate limit to be applied to requests received by local authorities is £450 (equivalent to 18 hours of work). In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

- (a) *Determining whether it holds the information,*
- (b) *Locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
- (c) *Retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
and
- (d) *Extracting the information from a document containing it.*

For the purposes of the estimate the costs of performing these activities should be estimated at a rate of £25 per hour.

The information appertaining to your question is not easily accessible and as such this information is not held as a distinct set able to be retrieved or reported on. To get the information would require a full scale look into all individual records. This would be a manual exercise and as such we believe that the aggregated time it

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would take to collate the information would be in excess of 18 hours (equivalent to a notional cost of £450).