

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 002089
Date 19 March 2018

Care Leavers

Request:

I would like to ask the following questions under the FOI act. I would be very grateful if you could send information back electronically in a readable format (i.e. not PDF):

1. How many care leavers did the council support in each year since 2009-10?
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 links:

This data is published nationally on gov.uk. It can be found within the Local Authority tables (LAF2a).

2016/17

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption-2016-to-2017>

2015/16

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption-2015-to-2016>

2014/15

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption-2014-to-2015>

2013/14

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption--2>

2012/13

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption>

2011/12

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-by-local-authorities-in-england-including-adoption>

2010/11

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-by-local-authorities-in-england-year-ending-31-march-2011>

2010/09

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-by-local-authorities-in-england-year-ending-31-march-2010>

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>

2. What was funding for support to care leavers in each year since 2009-10?

| | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 2009 - 2010 | Actual Spend | £880,325 |
| 2010 - 2011 | Actual Spend | £903,537 |
| 2011 - 2012 | Actual Spend | £691,487 |
| 2012 - 2013 | Actual Spend | £1,036,710 |
| 2013 - 2014 | Actual Spend | £1,403,313 |
| 2014 - 2015 | Actual Spend | £1,812,650 |
| 2015 - 2016 | Actual Spend | £2,122,226 |
| 2016 - 2017 | Actual Spend | £2,604,669 |
| 2017 - 2018 | Budget | £2.6 million |

3. What was funding per person for support to care leavers in each year since 2009-10?

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

4. How much did the authority pay out in total in setting up home grants (care leaver grants) in each year since 2009-10? What is the average per person grant provided in each of those years?
As above.

5. How many young people's advisers (or similar advisers to help provide support to care leavers), has the council employed in each year since 2009-10?

| Year | YPA's | Total Leaving Care |
|------|-------|--------------------|
| 2014 | 9 | 23 |
| 2015 | 11 | 29 |
| 2016 | 9 | 26 |
| 2017 | 11 | 37 |
| 2018 | 12 | 38 |

6. How many people have worked in the Care Leaver's Team (or similar team responsible for care leavers transitions), in each year since 2009-10?
See above.