

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 002412
Date 16 June 2018

Criminal Exploitation

Request:

I submit the following request for information under the Freedom of Information legislation to your Local Authority concerning criminal exploitation of children and young people.

National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

1. Does your Local Authority record information on the number of children under 18 who have been referred to the National Referral Mechanism for criminal exploitation?
Yes / No
[*See below](#)
2. Is this information retrievable from the 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018?
Yes / No
[*See below](#)

Children's Social Care

3. Does your Local Authority record information on the number of children and young people who are classified as 'at risk of criminal exploitation'?
Yes / No
[*See below](#)
4. Is this information retrievable from the 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018?
Yes / No
[*See below](#)
5. Does your Local Authority record information on the number of looked after children who are classified as 'at risk of criminal exploitation'?
Yes / No
[*See below](#)
6. Is this information retrievable from the 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018?
Yes / No
[*See below](#)

Missing from home and care

7. For children and young people who go missing from home, does your Local Authority record if they are at risk of 'criminal exploitation'?
Yes / No
[This information is recorded in written form but is not reportable.](#)

8. Is information on the number of children missing from home who are at risk of criminal exploitation retrievable from the 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018?
Yes / No
9. Does your Local Authority record data on the number of children missing from home who have been found outside the boundaries of your local authority?
Yes / No
[This information is recorded in written form but is not reportable.](#)
10. Is information on the number of children missing from home who have been found outside the boundaries of your local authority retrievable from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018?
Yes / No
11. For children and young people who go missing from care, does your Local Authority record if they are at risk of 'criminal exploitation'?
Yes / No
[This information is recorded in written form but is not reportable.](#)
12. Is information on the number of children missing from care who are at risk of criminal exploitation retrievable from the 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018?
Yes / No
13. Does your Local Authority record data on the number of children missing from care who have been found outside the boundaries of your local authority?
Yes / No
[This information is recorded in written form but is not reportable.](#)
14. Is this information retrievable from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018?
Yes / No

Policies for criminal exploitation

15. Does your Local Authority have a policy or protocol in place for identifying, assessing and responding to children and young people affected or at risk of child criminal exploitation?
Yes / No
16. If yes, please could you share the policy or protocol with us by email

[* 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).