

CITY OF  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
COUNCIL

## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 002599  
Date            30 July 2018

### *Children Taken into Care*

#### **Request:**

In relation to the first 20 cases of children that were taken into care (either interim or full) by your authority in the 2018 calendar year please provide me with the following information in connection with each of these cases.

1. The sex of the child?  
12 males  
8 females
2. The age of the child?

Age	Number LAC
0	5
1	2
2	1
3	2
4	4
5	0
6	0
7	0
8	0
9	1
10	0
11	0
12	0
13	0
14	0
15	1
16	1
17	2
18	1

3. If any of the following factors are recorded in the papers you hold on the case as having been a factor in the council's decision to take the child into care:
- (a) proximity to a dangerous dog
  - (b) the obesity of the child
  - (c) a concern the child spends too much time playing computer games and/or on the internet
  - (d) the child's home environment is unhealthy due to cigarette smoke
  - (e) the parents do not care adequately for the child because they spend too much time watching television and/or on the internet or
  - (f) that the child has poor dental hygiene.

With reference to question 3, 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 approximately 100 hours.

Excess cost removes the City of Wolverhampton Council's obligation under the Freedom of Information, however under Section 16 – (the duty to provide advice and assistance, the Council may be able to provide answers to the request, should you wish to submit a refined request.