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30 November 2009

Mr T Smith

Our Reference: CAS-106682-ZS923S

Sent via email to: [request-22776-224484d3@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-22776-224484d3@whatdotheyknow.com)

Dear Mr Smith

### Your request for information

Thank you for your email to [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk) of 7 November 2009, which was received by Ofsted on the same day. You have requested the following information:

- How many childcare providers (childminders and daycare/nursery owners) had their registrations suspended by Ofsted during 1 September 2008 -31 August 2009?
- What was the average length of time that these registrations remained suspended?
- How many suspended registrations appealed against their suspensions and were successful/not successful?
- How many registrations were eventually cancelled by Ofsted?
- If held as statistical evidence, the information broken down into reasons for suspension.

### The Freedom of Information Act

We have dealt with your request in accordance with the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

The first requirement of the Act is that we should confirm whether or not we hold information of the description set out in your request. I can confirm that we hold the majority of the information you have requested.

We hold information on the number of registrations suspended, the average length of time of the suspensions, whether there have been any successful/unsuccessful appeals and suspensions leading to cancellation. However, we do not hold statistical information about the reasons for suspension, as these are not categorised.

As you note, registrations are suspended when it is believed there is risk of harm to children. Depending on the circumstances, the purpose of the suspension is to allow Ofsted to investigate to see whether there is indeed a risk of harm to children to children and/or to allow the provider or Ofsted to take steps to reduce the risk. Cases are often related to child protection investigations but may also involve health and safety concerns (e.g. environmental health issues, safety concerns), concerns about the physical or mental health of the provider, or concerns about the suitability of those who have contact with children.

Under the FOI Act, We are under a duty to provide you with all the information we hold which falls within the scope of your request, provided it is not 'exempt' information.

Please find attached to this letter the information specified above that we hold relating to your request. The data is presented on the first tab of the spreadsheet and there is a second tab that contains explanatory notes.

If you feel we have not dealt with your request satisfactorily, you can contact me at [kerry.mctear@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:kerry.mctear@ofsted.gov.uk) or 0117 9456287 and I will do my best to resolve your concerns.

Alternatively, if you remain dissatisfied with our response or the handling of your request, you may request a formal internal review. In order to do this, please write to the following address, setting out which areas of the response you are unhappy with:

Email: [Richard.McGowan@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.McGowan@ofsted.gov.uk) or write to:

Head of Information Rights  
Legal Services Division  
Ofsted  
Aviation House  
125 Kingsway  
London  
WC2B 6SE

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you also have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision as to whether or not we have complied with our obligations under the FOI Act with respect to your request. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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FOI Case Reception Unit  
Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Kerry McTear". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kerry McTear  
Information Access Officer  
Information Access Team

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