



Our ref: 13121823

Date: 1 April 2020

Kirsty Card

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Dear Kirsty

This request is being handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please accept my apologies for the delay.

Request

- 1) *How many children have been looked after by the council when they have arrived in the city seeking asylum each year over the last 3 tax years.*
- 2) *Categorised by age group: Under 5, 6 - 10, 11 - 18, 19 – 25*
- 3) *How many have been adopted or fostered each year over the last three tax years?*

Response

- 1) **How many children have been looked after by the council when they have arrived in the city seeking asylum each year over the last 3 tax years.**

- 2) **Categorised by age group: Under 5, 6 - 10, 11 - 18, 19 - 25**

	Under 5	6 – 10	11 – 18	19 – 25	Total
2016-17	0	1	79	1	81
2017-18	0	0	93	5	98
2018-19	0	2	68	2	72

- 3) **How many have been adopted or fostered each year over the last three tax years?**

The information you have requested is not held in a readily accessible format, and would require a manual inspect of files.

From undertaking a sampling exercise in respect to similar Fol requests in the past, we estimate that it takes approximately five minutes to locate the file and

Birmingham Children's Trust

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retrieve the specific information contained in the file, dependant on the size and complexity of the file.

Working on an estimate of five minutes per file, the time involved in responding to this element of your request would be in the region of:

251 files x 5 minutes = 1,255 minutes (20.92 hours)

NB. 251 files is the total number of cases for the three financial years you have requested.

Whilst the Freedom of Information Act provides that any individual is entitled to request access to information held by a public authority, it also recognises that the burden of responding to voluminous requests can place a disproportionate burden on public authorities.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act provides that:-

The Act “does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.”

The appropriate limit, for local authorities, is set, by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, at 18 hours or £450 (at the statutory rate of £25 per hour) for the work undertaken in locating, extracting and collating the information requested.

As you will note, the estimate of the time required to collate the information requested would easily exceed the 18 hours limit.

In cases where the time involved in dealing with requests for information would exceed 18 hours, the Trust normally offers individuals the option to pay for the additional work over and above 18 hours, at a subsidised rate of £25 per hour. However, where the resources involved in dealing with a request would have detrimental impact on the Trust's ability to provide its core services, the Trust is entitled not provide this option, and accordingly, refuse the request outright.

In this case due to the amount of work and resources required to comply with this element of your request, the Trust is of the view that the resources involved in responding to your request, even if you were to pay the subsidised statutory rate of £25.00 per hour, would interfere significantly with the Trust's ability to provide its core services, as such, the Trust considers that it is appropriate to refuse the request outright on the basis of section 12 of the Act.

Please quote the reference number 13121823 in any future communications.

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If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 working days from the date this authority issued its initial response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Corporate Information Governance Team
PO Box 16366
Birmingham
B2 2YY
Email: infogovernance@birmingham.gov.uk

If you are still dissatisfied with the Trust's response after the internal review you have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF.
Telephone: 01625 545 700
Website: www.ico.org.uk

I will now close your request as of this date.

Yours sincerely

Alison Williamson
Customer Relations Service Officer

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