

Christian Barnett

28 August 2018

CIMU
Worcestershire County Council
County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester
WR5 2NP
Online: www.worcestershire.gov.uk

Reference: 567177

Dear Christian,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - INFORMATION REQUEST REGARDING:

Thank you for contacting Worcestershire County Council.

Unfortunately part of your request cannot be met because a legal exemption applies. The legal exemption that applies is Section 12.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, which for local authorities is set at £450, or 18 hours of staff time spent.

To comply with your request would require a looked up in the HR payroll system to determine the post title, to identify "social workers". Should an employee have moved jobs during the period it would be necessary to investigate the dates of employment for the position held which, in this case, would take an estimated 37.5 hours. This estimate has been arrived at based on the following: 450 staff x 5 minute review per record.

You may wish to refine your request to fall within the appropriate limit as follows; We may be able to provide you with the spend on employing agency social workers for a specific year.

We can however provide you with the following information:

1. Please could you tell me the number of looked after children cared for by Worcestershire County Council in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Figures for 2014 to 2017 have been published and are available at www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-looked-after-children

The provisional figure calculated for 31 March 2018 is 793.

2. The number of social workers employed by the county council in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Figures for 2014 to 2017 have been published and are available at www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-childrens-social-care-workforce

3. The number of agency social workers employed the county council in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

See response to question 2.

If you have a complaint in relation to your request, please contact:

Consumer Relations Department
Worcestershire County Council
County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester
WR5 2NP

Tel: 01905 84 6364

If you remain dissatisfied with our response, you have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or 01625 545 745 (national rate)

www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Information Access Team