



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Freedom of Information Team
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0EU

www.gov.uk/dhsc

Ms Cathy Fox

By email to: request-815858-496364d9@whatdotheyknow.com

13 January 2022

Dear Ms Fox,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1379405

Thank you for your request dated 13 December 2021, in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

"Dear Department of Health and Social Care,

Please give the formula that is used which takes ACE scores into account, when deciding the capacity of a mother to look after her children or removal of those children.

ACE scores - Adverse Childhood Experience Scores"

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

DHSC holds information relevant to your request.

ACE scores are not taken into account when deciding the capacity of a mother to look after her children or removal of those children.

These scores were developed for research purposes and shouldn't be used at an individual level to assess the services that individuals receive.

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to appeal by asking for an internal review. This should be sent to freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk or to the address at the top of this letter and be submitted within two months of the date of this letter.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communication.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may complain directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have already appealed our original response and received our internal review decision. You should raise your concerns with the ICO within three months of your last meaningful contact with us.

The ICO can be contacted at:

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

Website: <https://ico.org.uk/concerns>

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team
freedomofinformation@dhsc.gov.uk