

Response to Request for Information

Reference: FOI_8495
Date: January 2018
Type of request Freedom of Information / Environmental Information Request

Emergency Protection Orders

1, How many Emergency protection orders instigated by the Local Authority have resulted from Government austerity due to Parents losing their benefits as in PIP ESA, INCOME SUPPORT, JSA , due to Parents not having money to feed their children?
Please give statistics for the past 12 calendar months.

2, How many Care Proceedings have been instigated because Parents cannot feed their children due to loss of their benefits? please give statistics for the past 12 calendar months.

3, In how many of these cases has the LA refused to give the Parents a hardship grant to keep these Families together?

4, How many of these cases have resulted in the children being placed in Foster Care?

5, How many of these cases have resulted in children being placed with another family member under the kinship clause or Special Guardianship order.

6, Have any children been placed for Adoption, due to Parents not being able to feed their children due to losing their benefits? please give statistics for the past 24 calendar months?

Cambridgeshire County Council has reviewed your request in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, 2000 and can confirm that it holds information relative to your request. However, where the cost of retrieving all information requested exceeds the limitations afforded under s12 of the Act, the public authority is not required to provide a response. That limit is currently 18 hours at a cost of £25.00 per hour.

In respect of your request we do not hold statistical information in relation to emergency protection proceedings (question 1) and for the period from 1 April to 30 November we can advise that there were 83 Care Proceedings instigated by ourselves. For us to ascertain whether any factor within those cases was the parents ability to feed their children due to loss of benefits would require an experienced researcher to manually read each of those cases in order to do so. This has been assessed by a relevant person to require an average of not less than 30 minutes per case, which equates to more than 41 hours and exceeds the cost limitation.

Unfortunately I cannot suggest a method by which your request could be pared down in order to be achievable within the Act. The same method of extracting information would be required for each question from 2 to 6 when taken in isolation.

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