

My ref: 928402
Your ref:

Date: 18th February 2011

Contact: Sarah Priestley – Information Governance Manager
Direct dial: 01223 699137
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L.S.Palmer

Customer Service and Transformation
Corporate Director, Pat Harding

By Email:
request-58265-
75d54ee1@whatdotheyknow.com

Information Governance

RES1405
Shire Hall
Cambridge
CB3 0AP

Dear L.S. Palmer

Thank you for your request for information which was received on January 18th 2011. This request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information and I can confirm that we do hold the information requested.

Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your email. I do hope that this hasn't caused you any inconvenience.

As your request is in several parts, I will deal with each in turn:

1. Please confirm you abide by the following laws:

a. All families subject to care proceedings have had the benefit of a Residential Family Assessment before the child's permanent removal in accordance with L (A Child) and H (A Child) [2007] EWCA Civ 213 which held:

"before removing children from their natural families and placing them for adoption with strangers the court should be astute to ensure that the case had been fully investigated and that all the relevant evidence necessary for the decision was in Place, Art 6 of the ECHR required it.... There would of course be cases in which a s38(6) assessment would be a waste of public funds: parents who had inflicted injuries on their child but had failed to acknowledge their responsibility or a woman who did not accept that a paedophile partner was a risk to the child"

b. All parents who are guilty of abusing/neglecting their children to the extent that nothing short of removal from the parents will protect the children from SIGNIFICANT HARM have been convicted of a criminal offence for abuse/neglect and have been referred to the Independent Safeguarding Authority.

I can confirm that Cambridgeshire County Council considers that we conform to all legislative requirements placed upon it by statute in respect of child protection and child welfare.

Please provide a positive or negative affirmation in relation to the following statements:

1. That since removal of children from the parents no child in the care of the Local Authority has:
 - a. Suffered sexual abuse
 - b. Suffered physical abuse.
 - c. Suffered emotional abuse

(In this respect data referring to convictions/complaints of misconduct of social workers/foster carers/care workers and statistics relating to child suicides/children running away would provide the relevant assertion as to whether or not children were suffering 'in care')



2. That since removal of the children from the parents no child in the care of the Local Authority has been used for medical testing or registered on any program by the NIHR, MRCN or any other medical research program without the explicit consent from the biological parent.

3. That since removal of the children from the parents the children have been raised in the same faith they would have been raised in if they had not been removed from their parents.

4. That no child has been returned to the care of the local authority post adoption.

5. That no child in the care of the Local Authority has been criminalised, ie gained a criminal record having not previously had a criminal record while in the care of their biological parents.

While these issues are taken into consideration in the management of individual cases, this information is not of the type that would be recorded centrally or aggregated for statistical purposes, and would be held locally on each individual file.

Therefore, in order to provide you with the confirmation you are looking for, we would be required to manually search each of the files for the families and children involved in such proceedings.

We have estimated that it will cost more than the appropriate limit to establish whether or not we hold the information you have requested in our Archive and are therefore refusing this request on these grounds under s.12(2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

The appropriate limit is specified in regulations and for local government is set at £450 as specified by The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. It is Cambridgeshire County Council's policy not to fulfil any requests that exceed this limit. I have attached our [charging policy](#) for your information.

However, please be assured that Cambridgeshire County Council takes its responsibilities towards child protection and child welfare very seriously and that such care is paramount to the provision of our children's services. We endeavour to act in the best interests of the child.

I hope this information is helpful to you, however if you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to Sandra Taylor, Corporate Information Manager, c/o Information Governance Team, Box RES 1405, Shire Hall, Cambridge CB3 0AP.

If you are not content with the outcome your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Council. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Kind regards

Sarah Priestley
Information Governance Manager.