

**Customer Information  
Service**

County Offices  
Newland  
Lincoln  
LN1 1YL

Please ask for: Finley Beddows  
FOI Reference: 2361569  
Direct Dial: 01522 554011  
Email:  
customerinformationservice@icasework.lincolnshire.gov.uk  
Date: 15 September 2021

Laerke Christensen

Dear Laerke Christensen

**Freedom of Information Act 2000**

**Request**

This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I would like to request the following information:

1. How many cases have been referred to or dealt with by the council's social services regarding concerns about a child or children living in poor/unsuitable housing conditions?
2. How many of these cases have resulted in the temporary or permanent removal of a child or children from those housing conditions?
3. How many cases have been referred to or dealt with by the council's social services regarding concerns about an elderly or vulnerable adult living in poor/unsuitable housing conditions?
4. How many of these cases have resulted in the temporary or permanent removal of an elderly or vulnerable adult from those housing conditions?

Can you please provide the data for Qs 1 - 4 from January 1, 2016 up to and including the most recent data you hold for 2021. Please provide the data broken down year-by-year, e.g.:

2016:

2017:

2018:

2019

2020

2021 (so far):

## Decision

I can confirm that the information requested is held by Lincolnshire County Council.

Unsuitable Housing Conditions would just be one of the factors that would be considered before taking a child into Care or starting Child Protection proceedings. The details of whether Unsuitable Housing was a cause for concern would only be recorded within the text of the case notes for each child.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act a public authority does not have to comply with a request for information if the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. The current limit is set at 18 hours or £450 (based on one officer paid at £25 per hour for 18 hours). Although Lincolnshire County Council can confirm that the information requested is held, it is considered that the information has qualified as having exceeding this limit.

To answer this question would require a detailed analysis of the cases notes for each Looked After Child. This would take in excess of 100 hours (based upon 5 minutes per case for the 1660 cases during the period concerned) and would therefore exceed the 18 hour threshold allowed for an FOI request.

You are therefore advised that the requested information is exempt from disclosure under section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Under the act, Lincolnshire County Council recognises its duty to offer advice and assistance to enable you to bring your request under the 18 hours. However, in this case, even condensing your request to one years' worth of data is unlikely to enable us to respond fully with your request.

Please quote the reference number 2361569 in any future communications.

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 two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Lincolnshire County Council, Information Governance, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1YL

If you are still dissatisfied with the Council'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: 0330 123 1113

Website: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

I will now close your request as of this date.

Yours faithfully

Finley Beddows

Customer Information Advisor