



Northamptonshire County Council

By Email
Julian King
request-328710-ad27aeef@whatdotheyknow.com

Please ask for: Freedom of Information
Tel: 01604 368360
Our Ref: R6429
Your ref:
Date: 23rd May 2016

Dear Mr King,

Information Request: R6429

Thank you for your request for a review of FR6429 dated 29th April 2016. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is detailed below in italics with our response in bold.

Please pass this on to the person who conducts Freedom of Information reviews.

I am writing to request an internal review of Northamptonshire County Council's handling of my FOI request 'Complaint procedures and policies concerning social workers'.

Thank you for your response.

Unfortunately we would like to challenge your refusal to supply the information requested concerning complaints against social workers.

Northamptonshire County Council has been involved in much publicity surrounding the care of children.

We have not asked for any personal information, we have asked for statistics.

The statistics we have asked for are those which should be readily available and in an easily retrievable format.

There has been high profile criticism of the deaths of children known to the social services and of social workers involved in such cases.

It is not our fault if the Local Authority have failed to collate this information so that it does not exceed the cost limit for providing the information.

We would suggest that it would be in the best interests of the Local Authority and children for steps to be taken to collate this information which could ultimately save a

Northamptonshire County Council
County Hall
Northampton
NN1 1ED

w. www.northamptonshire.gov.uk
t. 01604 368360
e. freedomofinformation@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk



Northamptonshire
County Council

*child's life if a pattern was detected or indeed a parent's life if the conduct of a social worker was such that someone decided to take their own life.
In the interim we would ask that the cost limit be waived and that the information could be collated as part of any task to remedy the present situation to ensure that such information is available in an easily retrievable format in future.*

Our Response

I have looked into the circumstances of your request and the way in which was handled and I have set out my findings and conclusion below.

Relevant issues

- 1. A request for information was received on 15th April 2016 which fell within the scope of FOIA 2000, we responded to this on 22nd April 2016.**
- 2. We are required under the scope of this review to determine if our response was given within the mandatory timescale of the Act 2000.**
- 3. We are required to consider whether NCC responded to all questions asked with “held and recorded information” to the requester within the time frames.**
- 4. If we relied on any exemptions we must set this out in the letter in an explanatory manner.**

Conclusion

- 1. Noted.**
- 2. I am satisfied this requirement was met.**
- 3. I am satisfied this requirement was met.**
- 4. I am satisfied that exemptions s.40, Personal information, and Section 17/Section 12 refusal (18 hours) were applied correctly and in line with the explanations provided. The information, as it is currently held and recorded contains personal information which cannot be released via FOIA 2000. To search and review each individual record and provide the statistical information requested will exceed the fee limit.**

If our internal review does not resolve the issue to your complete satisfaction, you have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision at the following address:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Or, if you have any complaints in respect of your information request please complete the on-line comments form that can be found at www.northamptonshire.gov.uk, along with a full set of guidance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Lythe', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Janine Lythe
Corporate Support Manager
Email- dataprotection@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk