



Home Office

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Charles Brennan  
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15 September 2020

Dear Mr Brennan,

**Freedom of Information request reference: 60144**

Thank you for your e-mail of 28 August 2020, in which you ask to know:

*1.I would like to know how many complaints the home office has of cover up of child abuse by social services? Please name the councils.*

*2.I would like to know how many complaints the home office has of cover up of child abuse by the police? Please name the police force(s).*

*3.How many times has the Home Office instructed police to investigate child abuse and the cover up of child abuse? Please name police forces you have instructed to investigate and the councils (if any) where accusations have been made that they have covered up.*

*4.Please supply me with statistics of child abuse investigations leading to custodial sentences against the alleged paedophile where social services have led the investigation.*

*5.Please supply me with statistics of child abuse investigations leading to custodial sentences against the alleged paedophile where police have led the investigation.*

*6.Please supply me with statistics of child abuse investigations leading to the parent that reported suspected child abuse losing custody and / or access to their child and the child is given to the suspect or has unsupervised access to the suspect (i.e. alleged paedophile grandparent) where social services have led the investigation.*

*7.Please supply me with statistics of child abuse investigations leading to the parent that reported suspected child abuse losing custody and / or access to their child and the child is given to the suspect or has unsupervised access to the suspect (i.e. alleged paedophile grandparent) where police have led the investigation.*

In your email, you asked to go back as far as possible as costs dictate but you would like to see stats for at least 4 years. We have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

***1.I would like to know how many complaints the home office has of cover up of child abuse by social services? Please name the councils.***

***2.I would like to know how many complaints the home office has of cover up of child abuse by the police? Please name the police force(s).***

***3.How many times has the Home Office instructed police to investigate child abuse and the cover up of child abuse? Please name police forces you have instructed to investigate and the councils (if any) where accusations have been made that they have covered up.***

Regarding points 1, 2 and 3, under section 12 of the Act, the Home Office is not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit.

We hold some of the information which you have requested but we have estimated that responding to either point 1, 2 or 3, would, in itself, exceed the cost limit of £600 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. We are therefore unable to comply as figures of child abuse complaints are received by different teams across the Home Office and in different formats. The £600 limit is based on work being carried out at a rate of £25 per hour, which equates to 24 hours of work per request. The cost of locating, retrieving and extracting information can be included in the costs for these purposes. The costs do not include considering whether any information is exempt from disclosure, overheads such as heating or lighting, or items such as photocopying or postage.

If you refine your request, so that it is more likely to fall under the cost limit, we will consider it again. Please note that if you simply break your request down into a series of similar smaller requests, we might still decline to answer it if the total cost exceeds £600. Even if a revised request were to fall within the cost limit, it is possible that other exemptions in the Act might apply.

Although we are unable to comply with points 1-3 within the cost limit, we have considered your remaining points 4-7 and have responded to these below.

***4.Please supply me with statistics of child abuse investigations leading to custodial sentences against the alleged paedophile where social services have led the investigation.***

The Home Office does not hold this information. As your question is about custodial sentences, I would advise you to contact the Ministry of Justice if you wish to make a further request for this information. You can also contact Department for Education in case they hold information on social services investigations that result in a conviction. But you should know that the Ministry of Justice and the Department for Education might not hold this information.

***5.Please supply me with statistics of child abuse investigations leading to custodial sentences against the alleged paedophile where police have led the investigation.***

The Home Office does not hold this information. As your question is about custodial sentences, I would advise you to contact the Ministry of Justice if you wish to make a further request for this information. But you should know that the Ministry of Justice might not hold this information.

***6.Please supply me with statistics of child abuse investigations leading to the parent that reported suspected child abuse losing custody and / or access to their child and the child is given to the suspect or has unsupervised access to the***

***suspect (i.e. alleged paedophile grandparent) where social services have led the investigation.***

The Home Office does not hold this information. As your question is about investigations led by social services, I would advise you to contact the Department for Education if you wish to make a further request for this information. But you should know that the Department for Education might not hold this information.

***7. Please supply me with statistics of child abuse investigations leading to the parent that reported suspected child abuse losing custody and / or access to their child and the child is given to the suspect or has unsupervised access to the suspect (i.e. alleged paedophile grandparent) where police have led the investigation.***

The Home Office does not hold this information. As your question is about investigations led by social services, I would advise you to contact the Department for Education if you wish to make a further request for this information. But you should know that the Department for Education might not hold this information.

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to [foirequests@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:foirequests@homeoffice.gov.uk), quoting reference **60144**. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

As part of any internal review, the Department's handling of your information request would be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you were to remain dissatisfied after an internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the FOIA.

Yours sincerely,

**Tackling Exploitation and Abuse Unit**