



Home Office

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Charles Brennan
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12 November 2020

Dear Mr Brennan,

Freedom of Information request reference: 60937

Thank you for your email of 23 October 2020 following on from your original email of 28 August, where you asked 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 have refined your original request and asked:

if it would be possible to provide a statistical snap shot in the questions you hold data for - I can narrow the authorities down to Essex County Council, Southend, Basildon and Thurrock if that is any easier for you.

We have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

Regarding your most recent request, 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 would, in itself, once again 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 further, we will consider it again. However, due to way complaints come into the Home Office and the variety of teams that may have dealt with the complaints, 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.

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, quoting reference **60937**. 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