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(sent via email)

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27 July 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) Request ID: REQ03882

Thank you for your request for information relating to looked after children 2017.

1. How many children became 'looked after' in your local authority in the financial year of 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017?

Following careful consideration, the information you requested falls under the exemption(s) in section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("The Act"), which relates to 'information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means'.

The exemption applies as the information is published and publicly-available to view by accessing the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption-2016-to-2017>

We therefore do not have to provide the information as per Section 21 of the FOIA.

2. Of the children in Q1, how many were in a group of siblings of two or more (I would like the number of children, not the number of groups)?

These figures are not held in a reportable format but would equate to around 292 cases.

3. How many of the children that became 'looked after' in your local authority in the financial year of 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 were initially placed in Kinship Care/Connected Persons care?

33 children became looked after.

4. How many looked after children in your local authority are currently placed following care proceedings:

As of 31st March 2017:

a) With long term LA foster carers

This figure is not held in a reportable format but would equate to around 413 cases.

b) In kinship care foster placements

48 kinship care foster placements.

5.a. How many applications to be a kinship carer did you receive in the financial year of 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 in respect of children subject to Care Proceedings?

5.b. How many of those (5.a.) applications were successful (positive viability assessment)?

In respect of questions 5 a) and 5 b) it has been established that we do not hold this information within the parameters set out and we are therefore withholding the requested information. The exemption engaged is Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Section 12 of the FOIA exempts public authorities from providing information where the estimated cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. Any estimate must be undertaken in accordance with the limits set in fees regulations made under Section 12 (5) of the FOIA.

These Fees Regulations (SI 2004/3244 Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations) allow for a refusal where the cost of compliance, for local authorities such as the Council, would exceed £450. As a guide, staff time to identify and extract this information is charged at a rate of £25 per hour.

To explain, the viability assessments are completed in a number of different teams and then progress to the fostering service for full assessment. However there is no way of establishing how many were started and were negative, as the fostering service are only made aware of the positive ones. It would also require a manual trawl of all records to establish which viability assessments related to children subject to care proceedings at the time of the assessment, as this is not recorded in such a way to enable us to extract the information in a reportable format.

6. How many children in your local authority were made the subject of Special Guardianship Order following Care Proceedings in the financial year of 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017?

Following careful consideration, the information you requested falls under the exemption(s) in section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("The Act"), which relates to 'information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means'.

The exemption applies as the information is published and publicly-available to view by accessing the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption-2016-to-2017>

We therefore do not have to provide the information as per Section 21 of the FOIA.

7. How many of your local authority's current foster carers are prepared and approved to be long term foster carers of sibling groups of:

a) 2

b) 3 or more

We can provide **information for the previous financial year** as the information is published and publicly-available to view by accessing the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fostering-in-england-1-april-2016-to-31-march-2017>

However data relating to further years is not held in a reportable format and the information has been withheld from disclosure. The exemption engaged is Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Section 12 of the FOIA exempts public authorities from providing information where the estimated cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. Any estimate must be undertaken in accordance with the limits set in fees regulations made under Section 12 (5) of the FOIA.

These Fees Regulations (SI 2004/3244 Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations) allow for a refusal where the cost of compliance, for local authorities such as the Council, would exceed £450. As a guide, staff time to identify and extract this information is charged at a rate of £25 per hour.

In this instance, in order to extract the information being requested a manual trawl of all records would need to be undertaken and which would exceed the appropriate limit.

The supply of information in response to a Freedom of Information request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

Should you wish to make any further requests for information, you may find what you are looking for is already published on the [Council's web site](#) and in particular its FOI/EIR [Disclosure log](#), [Council's Publication Scheme](#), [Open Data](#) and [Facts about Coventry](#).

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are still unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email casework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance