

Ms Christina Savage
WHAT DO THEY KNOW?

PAUL JOHNSON
DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES &
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Resources Directorate
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Our Ref: 3199497

Date: 5th April 2018

Dear Ms Savage,

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA)

This request has been handled under the above legislation, please find our response below. You asked:

- 1. How many children became 'looked after' in your local authority in the financial year of 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017? **161***
- 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)? **65***
- 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? **34 (including half siblings)***
- 4. How many looked after children in your local authority are currently placed following care proceedings:*
 - a) with long term LA foster carers **21***
 - b) in kinship care foster placements **71***
- 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)? **Under Section 12(1) FoIA, the Council is not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates that the cost exceeds the 'appropriate limit' to fulfil it: for Local Authorities this is set at £450 (which equates to 18 hours).***

A central record of all applications to be a Kinship Carer is not kept; as these can include/relate to phone calls, verbal referrals etcetera that may not progress to panel. Therefore, every case would have to be manually reviewed

to identify and extract relevant details, each taking a minimum of 30 minutes; this would take in excess of 70 hours at an approximate cost of £1750. Thus, we are refusing to supply the information and are relying upon Section 12(1) FoIA in so doing.

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? Under Section 12(1) FoIA, the Council is not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates that the cost exceeds the 'appropriate limit' to fulfil it: for Local Authorities this is set at £450 (which equates to 18 hours).

This information is not recorded centrally and each case would have to be manually reviewed to determine if an SGO was granted. It has been estimated that to identify and extract relevant details would be a minimum of 30 minutes per case; taking more than 70 hours at an approximate cost of £1750. Thus we are refusing to supply the information and are relying upon Section 12(1) FoIA in so doing.

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

Under Section 12(1) FoIA, the Council is not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates that the cost exceeds the 'appropriate limit' to fulfil it: for Local Authorities this is set at £450 (which equates to 18 hours).

The information is not currently held centrally and would require a manual review of each carer's record. It has been estimated that to identify and extract relevant details would be a minimum of 30 minutes per record; taking more than 70 hours at an approximate cost of £1750. Thus we are refusing to supply the information and are relying upon Section 12(1) FoIA in so doing.

We trust the information is of interest and assistance. However, if you wish to request a review of our decision or make a complaint about how your request has been handled under the legislation, you should write to the following address or reply to the email to which this letter is attached:

Corporate Information Governance Manager
Resources Directorate
ICT and Information Governance
Council House, Manor Square
Solihull, West Midlands
B91 3QB

Your request for an internal review should be submitted to us within 40 days of receipt by you of this response. Any requests received after this time will be considered at the discretion of the Corporate Information Governance Manager.

If having exhausted the review process you are not content that your request or review has been dealt with correctly, you have a further right of appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO will not make a decision until you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the council. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Wycliffe House, Water

Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or 01625 545 745 (national rate). Website: www.ico.org.uk.

We will now close your request as of this date.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Bowdery
Corporate Information Governance Officer
Corporate Information Governance Team