



Reference Number:	FOI20186506CS	7 March 2018
Date Received:	12-Feb-18	
You Requested:	Requestor: Christina Savage	

1. How many children became 'looked after' in your local authority in 2017?
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)?
3. How many of the children that became 'looked after' in your local authority in 2017 were initially placed in Kinship Care/Connected Persons care?
4. How many looked after children in your local authority are currently placed following care proceedings:
  - a) with long term LA foster carers
  - b) in kinship care foster placements
- 5.a. How many applications to be a kinship carer did you receive in 2017 in respect of children subject to Care Proceedings?
- 5.b. How many of those (5.a.) applications were successful?
6. How many children in your local authority were made the subject of Special Guardianship Order following Care Proceedings in 2017?
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

On 6 March 2018 you changed your request:

I would like to re-submit my request, covering a slightly different period of time namely the financial year and not the calendar year:

**Our Response:**

We can confirm, per s.1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, that the council does hold the requested information.

We have reviewed the request and are unable to provide part of the information to you because it would exceed the fees limit set by the Act. Under s.12 of the Freedom of Information Act, the council is not obliged to comply with a request for information where

the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit. This relates to questions 3, 4 and 5. We would be able to provide the information for questions 1 and 2 and 6 and 7 however ICO guidance states that under the fees limit, **\*the whole request\*** is refused if part of it incurs a fees notice.

#### Questions 3, 4 and 5

The information is not held in a way that allows a report to show the requested information. To fulfil your request, we would have to manually review approximately 145 records held by the council. The exercise would take approximately 10 minutes per record which equates to 24 hours and therefore would exceed the limit of work required to satisfy a Freedom of Information request. The limit is £450 as set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004, and in the case of the council, this is the equivalent to 18 hours of work.

This response therefore acts as a refusal notice under section 17(5) of the FOIA.

#### **s.16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Advice and Assistance**

We have a duty under s.16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to provide you with advice and assistance where possible. If the “Kinship care” and “care proceedings” questions were to be removed, then the request could be narrowed to bring it within the 18 hours of work required to answer a Freedom of Information request.

Therefore should you wish to narrow your request for information and come back with a new limited request this will be re-considered.

**Attachments: None**

**Exemptions Applied: None**

**The Public Interest Test: Not applicable**

#### **Review Procedure**

I hope that this information is of assistance. However, if you feel that this particular request has not been complied with fully under the terms of the Act then please put your grounds in writing stating exactly why our interpretation of the Act and guidance has been incorrect and email that to: [foi@durham.gov.uk](mailto:foi@durham.gov.uk).

After you have exhausted our internal appeals procedure, you also have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at: Telephone: 01625 545 745 Email: [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

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