

Reference: 28812411
Date: 2 May 2023

Dear Natasha Brooker

Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000

We write in reference to your Freedom of Information request.

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides two distinct but related rights of access to information which impose corresponding duties on public authorities. These are:

- The duty to inform the applicant whether or not information is held by the authority and, if so,
- The duty to communicate that information to the applicant

I am pleased to provide some of the information you have requested. I have detailed below the information.

I am currently conducting research to obtain accurate statistics regarding the number of looked-after children who are currently missing in the UK. The purpose of my research is to gain a deeper understanding of the problem and to develop more effective strategies for preventing children from going missing in the future.

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would like to request the following information:

1. What is the current number of looked-after children who are missing from your local authority?

Section 40(2) applied

2. Could you provide information on the duration of each missing child's absence as of the date of this request?

No

3. Among the looked after children currently missing, how many have been absent for more than 28 days?

Section 40(2) applied

4. Of the looked after children who are currently missing, how many are believed to have absconded?

Zero

5. How many of the currently missing looked after children are suspected to have been abducted or involved with a third party?

Zero

6. Of the looked after children who are missing, how many are missing from foster homes in comparison to secure units, children's homes and other local authority provisions?

Section 40(2) applied.

S40(2) Personal information of a person other than the requestor (third party information).

Section 40 is an absolute, class-based exemption for which there is no requirement for me to iterate the harm which a release would cause nor to consider any public interest test.

The above exemption has been applied as the figures are less than 5 therefore if we were to provide the data, this could lead to the individuals being identifiable.

Internal Review Procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, then you have a right under Section 50 of the Act to request an internal review. All such requests must be sent to us within 8 weeks and must clearly state your reference number and your reason for your request for an internal review.

We will respond to your request for an internal review within 20 working days of receipt. Your request for an internal review should be sent by email to foi@lbbd.gov.uk quoting your FOI reference number.

Information Commissioners Office

Should you remain dissatisfied with the final outcome of the internal review then you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner (the "ICO") for an independent review. The ICO is the Government's Independent Body responsible for overseeing the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 1998 and The Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Please note the ICO will only review cases that have exhausted the council's internal review procedure. All correspondence to the ICO must quote the council's reference number and your reasons for your appeal. The ICO's contact details are as follows:-

The Information Commissioners Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane, Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

More information can be found at the ICO's website at <http://www.ico.org.uk>

If you have any further enquiries about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us by emailing foi@lbbd.gov.uk

We trust you find the above to be satisfactory, but should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

The FOI Team