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19 November 2019

Dear Ms Isitt

**Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 191109001**

Thank you for your request dated 9 November 2019 in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

**Under the Freedom of Information Act I would like to know the number of children each year under the age of 2 that were forcibly adopted in England since 2010, breaking it down by local authority.**

**I look forward to a swift reply**

Your request is being handled under the FOIA.

I have considered your request for information but I am unable to answer it without further clarification. Section 1(3) of the FOIA does not oblige us to answer requests where we require further clarification to identify and locate the information requested.

So that I provide you with the right information, please can you clarify your specific definition of 'forced adoption' that you refer to in this request? Data on whether adoptions are contested or not is available – would this be suitable? It covers when consent is actively given for adoption by the parent(s)/guardians(s) and there are not any parent/guardian that opposes the adoption. This consent (or opposition) is then translated to indicate whether it is being contested or not.

While writing to you, I'd like to make you aware that data may only be available from 2011 onwards.

On receipt of this information I will continue to process your request.

Yours sincerely

David Carmichael  
Justice Statistics Analytical Services