



Independent Safeguarding Authority

Josie Appleton
request-100018-a34a01e5@whatdotheyknow.com

06 February 2012

PO BOX 181
Darlington
DL1 9FA
www.isa.gov.org.uk

Dear Ms Appleton,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REF ISA/IG/FOI/403/2012

I write in connection with your request for information which was received by the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) on 11 January 2012. I note your request for information was as follows:

- 1. The number of referrals - for consideration for barring - made between 28 February 2011 and 31 December 2011.*
- 2. I would also like any statistics you possess on the nature of referrals, made since the ISA 'went live'. eg - I would like to know the nature of the referring organisation (eg, school, church, individual); and the reasons for which referrals were dismissed (eg, the number of vexatious or insubstantial referrals).*

In answer to question 1, between 28 February 2011 and 31 December 2011 the ISA received a total of 4,549 referrals for consideration under our discretionary powers. This figure does not include relevant offences received through the Automatic barring route (when a person accepts a caution or is convicted of a relevant offence, they are automatically barred from working with children and/or vulnerable adults in regulated activity) or cases provided by the Secretary of State for determining whether they should remain barred on the ISA Children's or Adults' List.

In reference to question 2, to help the ISA identify the information being sought, I am seeking clarification of your request. Could you please provide specific examples of the "statistics" you are seeking in order to assist the ISA in identifying the information you require.

In accordance with Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, which places a duty on public authorities to provide advice and assistance, I am able to include information gathered when referrals are received by the ISA, which you may find useful. While we are unable to provide the level of detail you have requested, we do have information from 1/4/2010 which identifies from which sectors we receive our referrals. They are as illustrated in the following table.

Referrals Received

Sector	20 Jan 09 – 31 Mar 09	01 Apr 09 – 31 Mar 10	Apr 10 – 31 Mar 11	01 Apr 11 – 31 Dec 11
Education			513	387
Care Homes / Domiciliary Care			2186	1757
NHS			229	162
Health & Social Care			224	524
Local Authority			945	692
Faith			41	24
Sport / Recreation			94	74
Personnel Supplier			80	54
Voluntary			48	52
Prison / Probation Service			44	26
Police			196	103
Professional Regulator			344	543
Other			278	214
TOTAL	3,448	9,056	5,222 *	4,612

*In 2010/2011 the ISA received and processed 5,361 referrals; Recording of sector- specific referrals commenced during April 2010.

I hope the information provided is of some use. If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request for information you can lodge a complaint with the Independent Safeguarding Authority to have it reviewed. The Independent Safeguarding Authority must be notified of your intention to complain within two months of the date of this response to your request.

Complaints should be made in writing and addressed to:

Performance and Information Governance Manager
Independent Safeguarding Authority
PO BOX 181
Darlington
DL1 9FA

In all possible circumstances the Independent Safeguarding Authority will aim to respond to your complaint as soon as practicable and in any case within two months.

Yours sincerely,

Performance and Information Governance Team