



# Official Solicitor

Jean James

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4 February 2019

Dear Jean James,

– Thank you for your request dated 29 January 2019, in which you asked for the following information from the Official Solicitor.

*Dear Official Solicitor,*

*From 2006 to 2009, 588 parents were deemed to lack the mental capacity to care for their children, and the children were removed from the parents.*

*(1) How many children were involved?*

*(2) How many of these children have since (a) been kept in foster care permanently, and (b) how many of these children were adopted out?*

*(3) Please confirm that these cases were handled by the Official Solicitor.*

*(4) If not handled by the Official Solicitor, please advise which authority acted as deputy or guardian in these cases.*

*A breakdown of figures by year would be appreciated if it is possible, please.*

*(5) Please advise how many parents were deemed to lack the mental capacity to care for their children, and therefore they were removed from the parents from 2009 to 2018, please?*

*For (5), will you also please supply information as in (1) to (4) above?*

*A breakdown of figures by year would be appreciated if it is possible, please.*

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

The Official Solicitor is an independent statutory office holder of the Senior Courts. One of his functions is to act as litigation friend of last resort.

When he acts as litigation friend, he is not a public authority for the purposes of FOIA. The work this office undertakes on the Official Solicitor's behalf when he acts as litigation friend does not fall within the scope of the FOIA.

Your request for information relates to the discharge of his functions of acting as litigation friend.

In the circumstances, I am unable to provide the information requested.

Yours sincerely

Devone Lawrence

Knowledge and Information Liaison Officer