

Our Ref: FOI Request 20/2306826

Your Ref:

Date: 1 October 2020

If telephoning please ask for: Laura Goodwin – **Direct Line** 01389 776833

Ms Elizabeth Thomson

request-690444-149c91fc@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Ms Thomson,

Re: Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information which was received by West Dunbartonshire Council on 9 September 2020 about:

Request

My request relates to "forced adoptions", ie adoptions which took place in the 20th century prior to the 1978 Adoption (Scotland) Act. These adoptions sometimes took place in institutions referred to as mother and baby homes.

I am aware that most local authorities partner with at least one specialist agency (like Birthlink) which can provide counselling, intermediary or information services to adoptees and biological family members. I would like to know how many women (birth mothers) affected by pre-1980 adoptions have approached the council seeking counselling support in each of the last 5 years?

Council's Response

In accordance with Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 we do not hold this information. There is occasions that we have routinely signposted to the relevant agency but this information is not recorded.

This information has been disclosed in terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Information disclosed to you may be subject to copyright laws. By providing this information, West Dunbartonshire Council does not waive copyright nor does it create or provide a right to publish, disclose, reproduce, re-use or alter this information without consent of those parties holding the copyright.

Review Procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which West Dunbartonshire Council has dealt with your request, you are entitled to require the council to review its decision.

Please note that in order for a review to take place, you must:

- lodge a written requirement for review within 40 working days of the date of this letter
- include your address for correspondence, a description of the original request and the reasons why you are dissatisfied
- send your review request to the following address:

FOI Review
Regulatory Services
West Dunbartonshire Council
Municipal Buildings,
Dumbarton, G82 1NR
Email: foi@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

The review will be handled by staff who were not involved in the original decision. You will receive notice of the result of your review within 20 working days. It will explain the findings of the review as well as details of how to appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner if you are dissatisfied with the review decision reached by West Dunbartonshire Council.

Their contact details are as follows:-

The Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife, KY16 9DS

Email: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info
Tel: (01334) 464610
Website: www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal.

If you have any further queries about this process, please contact me.

Yours sincerely

Laura Goodwin
Information Assistant