

Essex County Council
Schools, Children & Families Directorate
PO Box 47, County Hall
Chelmsford, Essex
CM1 1YS

L S Palmer
request-58762-
c7ea220f@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: ECC-009541-11

Your ref: N/a

Date: 14 February 2011

Dear L S Palmer

Your Freedom of Information Request:

I am pleased to enclose the following information, which I believe satisfies your request. Your questions were:

- 1. Since 1 April 2009 how many applications for a Care Order have been made by the Local Authority?**

Please see attached Spreadsheet 1.

- 2. At the date of replying, how many children are in the care of the Local Authority under:**
 - a. A S31 Order**
 - b. A S20 Order**

Please see attached Spreadsheet 2.

- 3. How many of the applications for a Care Order made since 1 April 2009 have resulted in:**
 - a. A Supervision Order.**
 - b. A Care Order - Permanent Foster Care/Care Home.**
 - c. An Adoption Order.**
 - d. A Special Guardianship Order - placed with family.**
 - e. No Order.**

Unfortunately, given the specific information that has been requested we would need to read each of the 511 files to answer this question. We estimate that compliance with this part of your request would exceed the appropriate costs limit under section 12 of the Freedom of information Act 2000. This is currently £450. This limit is calculated 18 hours of work at a cost of £25 per hour. This serves as a refusal notice in respect of this part of your request.

Contd.

4. In relation to 3b, 3c and 3d how many of the parents had:

a. Been convicted of a criminal offence against their children

Protocol, our Social Care system, does not keep reportable data on the Criminal procedures of the parent.

b. Had the benefit of a residential family assessment

Unfortunately, given the specific information that has been requested we would need to read each of the 511 files to answer this question. We estimate that compliance with this part of your request would exceed the appropriate costs limit under section 12 of the Freedom of information Act 2000. This is currently £450. This limit is calculated 18 hours of work at a cost of £25 per hour. This serves as a refusal notice in respect of this part of your request.

5. In relation to 3c how many applications for freeing orders were made?

You can no longer apply for freeing – freeing was replaced by Placement Orders under the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

6. In relation to question 1, how many of the parents had made an official complaint against children's services prior to the commencement of care proceedings?

Unfortunately, given the specific information that has been requested we would need to read each of the 511 files to answer this question. We estimate that compliance with this part of your request would exceed the appropriate costs limit under section 12 of the Freedom of information Act 2000. This is currently £450. This limit is calculated 18 hours of work at a cost of £25 per hour. This serves as a refusal notice in respect of this part of your request.

You may reuse all or part of this information free of charge in any format or medium. You must reuse it accurately and not in a misleading context.

Please contact me if you would like further advice or assistance about your request or your right to access information held by Essex County Council.

If you are not satisfied with my response to your request, please let me know. If I am unable to resolve the issue immediately, I will explain our complaints procedure. If, after following our complaints procedure, you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to ask the Information Commissioner to review our decision. You can contact him at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF, telephone 01625 545700.

Yours sincerely

Lauri Almond

Information Governance Officer

Schools, Children and Families

Essex County Council

Telephone: 08457 430430

Email: yourrighttoknow@essex.gov.uk