

### Freedom of Information request reference ISA/IG/FOI/258/2011

#### ***Information requested and response***

In response to your request, the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) is part of the Vetting and Barring Scheme which only affects adults who work with children or vulnerable adults in a defined set of activities or in a defined set of establishments or positions. Interaction between adults and children or vulnerable adults in family and personal arrangements is outside the boundaries of the Scheme.

1. *Since 2009, Regarding abuse/neglect of children by staff(employed and agency) of Local Authority children's services, please could you state how many referrals were made to you by:*

- a. GSCC
- b. The Criminal Court/Crown Prosecution/Criminal records
- c. The Local Authority

The ISA assesses those individuals working or wishing to work in regulated activity that are referred to us on the grounds that they pose a possible risk of harm to vulnerable groups. While the risk of harm may include abuse and neglect, the definition is open ended and may include other types of harm. Further guidance in relation to the types of harm is available from the ISA website at the following address:

<http://www.isa.gov.org.uk/PDF/Referral%20Guidance%20and%20Form%20FINAL%20v%2010-01.pdf>

While the ISA does record referrals made by the GSCC, Local Authorities and the courts, the types of harm committed is not recorded in a readily accessible format and would require the manual examination of paper records. Under the Freedom of Information Act, this would exceed the limit prescribed in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 and had the Freedom of Information Act applied, your request would have been refused under Section 12(1) of the Act.

2. *Since 2009, Regarding abuse and neglect of children by clients of children and Family services (the child/ren's family), please could you state how many applications/referrals were made to you by:*

- a. The Family Court
- b. The Criminal Court/Crown Prosecution/Criminal Records
- c. The Local Authority.

The ISA usually only receives referrals for people who work in regulated activity (i.e. work with children or vulnerable adults) or for people who have committed auto-bar offences. If a referral was made in relation to abuse or neglect, it would be because the person was working with children or vulnerable adults, rather than because they had harmed in a domestic setting, therefore the ISA does not record information in the context of referrals relating to family circumstances.

3. *Since 2009 How many of the following received an automatic bar:*

- a. Foster carers*
- b. Social Worker*
- c. Children Home Worker*
- d. Parent of children subject to care proceedings.*

Although the ISA receives information relating to all convictions and cautions for automatic barring offences, the occupation or status of the offender is not usually provided to the ISA and therefore the ISA does not hold the information you request.

4. *Since 2009 How many of the following received a discretionary bar:*

*a. Foster Carer*

It should be noted that while a person may be a Foster Carer, they may have been barred as a result of their conduct in other roles of regulated activity in which they work, for example as a volunteer working with children. Between 20 January 2009 and 10 February 2011, 7 people identified as Foster Carers received discretionary bars.

*b. Social Worker*

Again, it should be noted that while a person may be a Social Worker, they may have been barred as a result of their conduct in other roles of regulated activity in which they work, for example as a volunteer working with children. Between 20 January 2009 and 10 February 2011, 5 people identified as Social Workers received discretionary bars.

*c. Children Home Worker*

For the purpose of this question, our understanding of the term Children Home Worker is any person who may engage in regulated activity within the domestic setting of a child. This may include child minders, child care workers and nannies.

While a person may be a Children Home Worker, they may have been barred as a result of their conduct in other roles of regulated activity in which they work, for example as a volunteer working with children. Between 20 January 2009 and 10 February 2011, 4 people identified as Children's Care Workers received discretionary bars.

*d. Parent of children subject to care proceedings.*

The ISA would not normally receive information about parents whose children are subject to care proceedings however, where it does so, it does not record information in the context of referrals relating to family circumstances.