



Oliver Murphy

Information Management  
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**Please ask for Bruce Green**

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**Our ref:** 8131560

**Your ref:**

**Date:** 5th September 2022

Dear Oliver Murphy

**Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Your request for information has been considered by Warwickshire County Council under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by Warwickshire County Council. However, please be advised we are unable to provide any of this information.

This is because some of the information is already published and is therefore exempt from disclosure under Section 21 (Information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Also, to provide to provide some of the information you have requested would exceed the 'appropriate limit', as outlined in Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please see below for further details and explanation.

You asked us:

***I write to request, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, the number of reports of sexual abuse against disabled adults received by this authority between the financial years 2017-2022.***

***I would like the information to be broken down into the following:***

***i) The number of reports of sexual abuse against disabled adults, broken down into months, years, and a grand total?***

**ii) In each case, whether the victim had a learning disability or physical disability, or both?**

**iii) Whether each report resulted in an investigation, and the outcome of said investigation?**

**Please provide the information in Excel format.**

**Yours faithfully.**

On 27th July we advised the following:

*At the Concern stage (the equivalent of 'reports' - the wording used in the request), the type of abuse and the customer classification (i.e. their disability) is not mandatory recordable information and we do not collect this type of information at the concern stage.*

*Furthermore, 'disabled adults' would include those over 65yrs who may be classified as 'Older People' rather than 'Disabled Adults' but have a physical or learning disability. To include these within the scope of the request we would need to check each record manually, and this would exceed the 18 hour costs limit for supply of information (as we receive 2,000 - 2,500 plus safeguarding concerns per year) for each year of data requested.*

*We could supply information on how many Adult Safeguarding Concerns became Adult Safeguarding Enquiries (this is when a concern - 'report' - of abuse is investigated), that involved the person experiencing Sexual Abuse or Sexual Exploitation between 2017-2022. This does not specifically answer the request, but would provide information of the number of Adult Safeguarding Enquiries where there was reason to suspect a person with care & support needs was experiencing, or was at risk of, sexual abuse / exploitation.*

....and on 9th August 2022 you provided the following clarification:

***"With this in mind, I would be grateful if you could supply information on how many Adult Safeguarding Concerns became Adult Safeguarding Enquiries (this is when a concern - 'report' - of abuse is investigated), that involved the person experiencing Sexual Abuse or Sexual Exploitation between 2017-2022."***

Warwickshire County Council hold information of how many Adult Safeguarding Enquiries in the relevant years have a 'Type of Abuse' classification as Sexual Abuse or Sexual Exploitation. However, this information is already publicly available therefore it is exempt under Section 21(1) (Information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please follow the link below to the relevant NHS Digital Safeguarding Adults Collection data webpage:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/safeguarding-adults>

This includes statistics for each year of your request, to access the relevant information:  
- open the selected Excel document, (the contents tab contains further information).

- select the tab for the relevant table (Table 2).
- Warwickshire County Council has the ONS area code E10000031.

Although this information is held by Warwickshire County Council; under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 Public Authorities are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible.

Please treat this response as a refusal notice under Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, for the published information as outlined above.

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide any information regarding Adult Safeguarding Concerns which relate to Sexual Abuse or Sexual Exploitation, as 'Type of Abuse' is not mandatory recordable information at the Concern stage, and Warwickshire County Council do not record this.

In order for us to provide this information we would be required to undertake a manual review of circa 3,000 individual records for each year of data requested. It has been estimated that such a review would greatly exceed the 18 hours of officer time set as an appropriate limit under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and therefore we are not obliged to comply with this part of your request.

Finding, retrieving and preparing information takes employees' time and consequently we are allowed to consider costs. If, based upon an hourly rate of £25 the cost exceeds the 'appropriate limit', then the public authority can refuse to fulfil the request. For Local Authorities the 'appropriate limit' is set at £450 (which equates to 18 hours of officer time).

In not providing this information the Council is relying upon Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, whereby the Council is not obliged to comply with a request for information if the Council estimates that the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit.

Please treat this response as a refusal notice under Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, for the Adult Safeguarding Concerns information as outlined above.

***Yours sincerely.***

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Information Management  
Shire Hall  
Warwick  
CV34 4RL  
[inforights@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:inforights@warwickshire.gov.uk)

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
Phone: 0303 123 1113  
Website: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

I will now close your request as of this date.

Yours faithfully

Bruce Green  
Information Rights Officer