

Corporate Resources

S Pritchard

The Information Management Service  
Shire Hall  
Westgate Street  
GLOUCESTER  
GL1 2TG

Please ask for Stephen Taylor

Telephone 01452  
324000

Email [managemyrequests@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:managemyrequests@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

Our ref: 15291011

Your ref:

Date: 11 December 2019

Dear S Pritchard

Apologies for the delay. I am pleased to provide a response to your request for information, received on 1 November 2019:

**For this request please refer to children at the age below consent for sex, being 15 and where data is required please go back one year.**

**1. We would like to know what your policy is and what the law says on your council or any professional working for your council (including foster carers) calling children liars, children not being believed or children not taken seriously or any other concern of similar effect when sexual abuse allegation has been raised.**

We do not have a policy as such that specifically relates to your question. However, social workers are trained to respond to all allegations of abuse objectively and in accordance with the guidance for investigating child protection concerns.

**2. We would like to know what your policy is and what the law says for any parent or family member calling children liars, children not being believed or children not taken seriously, intimidating a child not to disclose secrets or any other concern of similar effect when sexual abuse allegation has been raised.**

The main piece of legislation related to child protection investigations is the Children Act 1989 and the regulatory guidance is Working Together (2019).

**3. We would like to know what your policy is and what the law says on your council or any professional working for your council (including foster carers) suppressing evidence or anything to the effect in an attempt to conceal child abuse (perverting the course of justice).**

Our procedures for managing allegations against child care professionals is available on the following link - <https://www.gscb.org.uk/i-work-with-children-young-people-and-parents/the-role-of-the-lado-and-the-allegations-management-process/>

**4. We would like to know what your policy is and what the law says for any parent or family member suppressing evidence or anything to the effect in an attempt to conceal child abuse (perverting the course of justice).**

See Q2.

**5. How many children have you currently got living in your borough that are allowed unsupervised access to either foster careers, parents or extended family that have;**

**a) Allegations of child sexual abuse against them (pertaining to accusations from the child(ren) living in your borough (either reported by the child or other persons);**

**b) Allegations of historic child sexual abuse against them (pertaining to other children now adults or other children that no longer have access to the perpetrator.)**

**c) Both a & b; Allegations of child sexual abuse against them (pertaining to accusations from the child(ren) living in your borough (either reported by the child or other persons) and Allegations of historic child sexual abuse against them (pertaining to other children now adults or other children that no longer have access to the perpetrator.)**

We do not collate this data and in order to report on this, it would require a manual trawl of over 4000 records which would take approximately 30 minutes per record. This would take well in excess of the 18 hours laid down by the Act.

\* The request is refused under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act. This is because I have concluded that the cost of complying with your request will exceed the 'appropriate limit' of £450 (18 hours @ £25 per hour) which is laid down by the Act and associated Regulations<sup>1</sup>.

This email therefore acts as a refusal notice under section 17 of the FoIA as some of the information you have requested is exempt from disclosure.

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<sup>1</sup> SI 3244 2004 Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004

**6. How many parents have children living in your area that have been stopped access to their child(ren) for reporting concerns of abuse and the child(ren) currently live or have unsupervised access to a suspected perpetrator as listed in question 5 a, b and c.**

Please see Q5.

**7. What is your council's policy on obtaining DBS checks on any person that has had child sexual abuse accusations made against them (either current or historic) and your council allowing them to have unsupervised access to child(ren) living in your borough?**

If we receive information related to a child who may be having unsupervised access to a person who has had child sexual abuse accusations made against them, then we would assess each situation individually and on the basis of the evidence available determine what action, if any, to take.

**8. How many persons have had accusations made against them (either current or historic as listed in question 5 a & b) and allowed unsupervised access to children living in your borough have;**

**a) Had DBS checks made by your council on them (Standard and Enhanced) and**

**i) the DBS is clear**

**ii) The DBS shows history**

**b) Has not had DBS checks made by your council on them (Standard and Enhanced).**

Please see Q5.

If you are unhappy with my response, you can complain or ask for a review of your request by writing to us within 40 working days of receiving this response. The full procedure is on our website at <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/foi>. This should be addressed to:

Shire Hall, Westgate Street, Gloucester. GL1 2TG  
managemyrequests@gloucestershire.gov.uk

We would like to hear your views on our service. If you'd like to tell us how we did, you can complete our feedback form online at <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/foifedback>

I will now close your request as of this date.

Yours faithfully

Stephen Taylor *PC.foi/BCS Data Protection Practitioner*  
Information Requests Officer