

20 April 2018

Ms Alison Stevens
request-473523-
63c6da1f@whatdotheyknow.com

Information Governance Team
Corporate Services & Digital
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Our ref: ENQ08859-REQ002

Dear Ms Stevens,

Freedom of Information Request – section 20 orders relating to children

Thank you for your request for information dated 26 March 2018, in which you requested the following information:

- 1, How many children are currently held on a section 20 order?
- 2, How many children have been removed off a section 20 order in the last 12 calendar months?
- 3, Of the children removed from a section 20 order in past 12 calendar months . how many of these children were placed into LA care? how many of these cases resulted in children being returned to the care of the Parents?
- 4, How many children have been placed with an immediate family member such as Grandparents under the kincare clause or a Special Guardianship order in the past 12 calendar months?

Also what is the longest time a Child has remained on a section 20 prior to going to Court to instigate Care proceedings?

Please give statistics for the period of the last 24 months.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act') The Council is obliged to:

- Let you know whether we hold the information you have requested
- Provide you with the requested information, if held, (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

Section 12 of the Act removes the above obligation if the cost of complying would exceed a set limit known as the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 working hours in determining whether the Council holds the requested information. This also includes locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with the information that you have requested for the last question would require a manual search of 432 records, with a conservative estimate of 20 minutes per record meaning about 144 hours to complete the request.

We estimate that to comply with your request would exceed the appropriate limit, which means your request will not be processed further.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope, for example, you could reduce the time period that your request covers or reduce the overall scope of the request.

I cannot think of a way to reduce the scope of the last question in order to make this answerable within the appropriate limit. You may wish to remove this question and we may be able to provide the answers to the other 4 questions.

If you are dissatisfied with the above response you have a right to request a review of your Freedom of Information request. Details of the complaints and review procedure are appended to this letter.

Yours sincerely

Kyle McCormack

Information Governance Officer
Email: FOI@wiltshire.gov.uk

Freedom of Information Complaints & Review Procedure

Any person who has requested information from Wiltshire Council, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act is entitled to complain and request an internal review of their request for information if they are dissatisfied with the response they have received.

Requests for review of Freedom of Information requests must be made in writing (includes email) to:

Freedom of Information Lead
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Email FOI@wiltshire.gov.uk

Please include the reference number, date of your request and details of why the review is being requested. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Freedom of Information Lead within 42 calendar days (6 weeks) of the response to the original request.

Any request for review will be acknowledged in writing confirming the reasons for the review. The Freedom of Information Lead will allocate the review to someone who is independent of the original decision. The person conducting the review will set a target date for a response with the intention to complete the review within 20 working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to 40 working days.

The reviewer will conduct a full review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, taking into account any matters raised by the requestor.

On completion of the review the reviewer will reply to the requestor with the result of the review. If the requestor is still dissatisfied following the review they should contact the Information Commissioner to appeal the decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted using the following details:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate)
01625 545 745 (national rate)
Email: casework@ico.org.uk