

Your ref:
My ref: 3202829

Ms Alison Stevens

By Email only: [request-474746-
034dc690@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-474746-034dc690@whatdotheyknow.com)

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21 June 2018

Dear Ms Stevens

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 ("FOIA") – INTERNAL REVIEW –
REF: 3202829**

I am writing to you further to your request for an internal review.

The internal review is now complete and I am able to provide you with the outcome. In undertaking this review I have considered your request for information received on 3 April 2018, the County Council's response of 8 May 2018 and your request for an internal review received on 30 April 2018.

Your request made on 3 April 2018 asked for the following information to be provided;

Could you please answer the following questions with regards to this Freedom of Information Request.

- 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? and 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?*
- 5. What is the longest amount of time that a child has been left on a section 20 order without going to Court? Please give statistics for the past 3 calendar's years?*

An acknowledgment email was sent to you on the same day advising, "We are dealing with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and we aim to send a response by

30 April 2018." On 30 April 2018 a further email was sent to you to advise that your request was still being dealt with and that the Council would send the response as soon as possible but in event would contact you again before 14 May 2018 if the response was not ready. You responded on 1 May 2015 and asked for an internal review, *"I am now requesting an internal review with regards to this FOI, Compliance time breach."*

The response to your request was sent to you 8 May 2018 and provided the information that you requested. The Council has not received any further correspondence from you with regard to the information provided, and as such this internal review has only dealt with the issue of compliance with time frames.

FOIA time for response to request

Section 10 of the FIOA states the following;

"Subject to subsections (2) and (3), a public authority must comply with section 1(1) promptly and in any event not later than the twentieth working day following the date of receipt."

The response that you received was 5 working days after the twentieth day. We are very sorry for this delay and apologise for any inconvenience that may have been caused. I have spoken with the officers involved in compiling the response provided to you and they have advised that the reason for the delay was due to the service area that needed to provide the response being exceptionally busy delivering front line services. In addition the officer that held the data was out of the office for a number of days with work commitments.

Conclusion

I again apologise for the delay in providing you with the information that you requested. We have now provided you with all of the information that you requested and hope that the slight delay in providing the information did not cause you any inconvenience. We hope that you understand that the staff at the Council work very hard to try and provide the information requested as soon as possible but in some situations this is not possible. In this instance the volume of work that the Council staff were dealing with, and officers not being in the office meant that your request was 5 days late in being responded to. Whilst the response was late, the information you requested was provided and as such you were not prejudiced in anyway.

Next Steps

I do hope that this internal review addresses the issue you have raised.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the review you may wish to appeal to the ICO, at the following address:

Compliance Team (Complaints)
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Emily Wells". The signature is stylized with a large, looped 'E' and a cursive 'Wells'.

Emily Wells

