

Schools, Children and Families
Essex County Council
PO Box 11, County Hall
Chelmsford
Essex CM1 1LX



Ms Sheila Hersom
request-112xxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Our Ref: ECC-019904-12
Date: 08 May 2012

Dear Ms Hersom

Thank you for your request for information received on 10 April 2012 concerning:

- 1. What constitutes a Serious Case Review (SCR) to take place regarding a child(ren)?**
 - 2. How many SCR has your LA had in the last 5 years? Please supply details.**
 - 3. How many social workers were involved in each of the SCR?**
 - 4. Did any service users [parents, family, friends, neighbours etc.] directly involved with the child in the SCR make complaints, either prior to the SCR or after the SCR, about a social worker or reported a social worker to the GSCC? What was the nature of complaint and outcomes?**
 - 5. Has any of the social workers involved in any of the SCR listed above been involved in any other SCR, either in your LA or within another LA? Please provide details.**
 - 6. Are any of the social workers that were involved in any of the above SCR still employed by your LA?**
 - 7. Do you / have you employed a social worker that has been involved with a SCR in another LA? If this question is true, what checks are made to ensure that past mistakes from the social worker will not be made again?**
 - 8. Following Q7, regarding a social worker commencing employment with your LA, does another LA have to inform you that they were previously involved in a SCR? What checks are made that they have a clean record such as a involved in a SCR or sacked for misconduct or the like?**
 - 9. Is your LA duty bound to inform another LA that a social worker that was previously employed by your LA was involved in a SCR or sacked for misconduct or the like?**
 - 10. Please can you supply first names of social workers (omit surnames for data protection reasons) that were involved with the SCR's listed in Q2.**
- This request is being handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.**

Contd/.....



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This information would be held within reports from the Essex Safeguarding Childrens Board, who are not subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as they are not a Public Body. We can confirm that this information is likely to be held by Essex County Council in individual social care records. However from our preliminary assessment, we estimate that compliance with your request would exceed the appropriate costs limit under section 12 of the Freedom of information Act 2000. This is currently £450. This limit is calculated 18 hours of work at a cost of £25 per hour. The information you have requested is not available because we would need to identify all of the social care records where a serious case review was held. Once these files have been identified we would then need to read each complete file in order to collate the information you have requested which would constitute thousands of pages. Therefore we will not be complying with this part of your request. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice in respect of this part of your request.

Please contact me if you would like further advice or assistance about your request or your right to access information held by Essex County Council.

If you are not satisfied with my response to your request, please let me know. If I am unable to resolve the issue immediately, I will explain our complaints procedure.

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Telephone: 08456 30 60 60 or 01625 54 57 45 Website: www.ico.gov.uk

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely

Lauri Almond

Information Governance Officer
Schools, Children and Families

Essex County Council

Telephone: 08457 430430

Email: yourrighttoknow@essex.gov.uk