

**FOI 001957 - Agency decision maker - Responses shown in bold**

From August 2014 to the present:

1. The number of times the Agency Decision Maker has requested a second opinion assessment of prospective foster carers subsequent to a positive panel recommendation.
2. The number of times the Agency Decision Maker has overturned a positive panel recommendation of prospective foster carers.
3. The number of times the Agency Decision Maker has
  - a) Requested a second opinion assessment (by a different social worker than the original assessing social worker), subsequent to a positive panel recommendation of prospective foster carers.  
AND
  - b) Received a positive second opinion report.  
AND
  - c) Still overturned the panel recommendation.

**Although we hold this information, it is not readily available.**

**We have estimated that the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. It is estimated that it would cost more than £450 to comply with your request.**

**In order to locate and retrieve this information, it would be necessary to manually review 12 and 18 panels per year with up to 6 cases per panel, where there’s over 100 different depth documents. We have estimated that the total length of time required to complete this request would exceed the 18 hour time limit.**

**Therefore, we are unable to complete your request on this occasion.**

**You may wish to refine and resubmit your request so that it reduces the cost to within the “appropriate limit”.**

**If you narrow the scope of your request the Council may be able to provide the information free of charge because it would cost less than the appropriate limit to do so, although we cannot guarantee this will be the case.**

**Any reformulated request we receive will be treated as a new FOI request.**

**In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this document acts as a refusal notice under Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act and an exemption under Section 12 of the Act is being applied.**