

Carmel Littleton  
Corporate Director  
Children, Employment and Skills  
Municipal Offices  
222 Upper Street  
London N1 1XR

T 020 7527 5855  
E [carmel.littleton@islington.gov.uk](mailto:carmel.littleton@islington.gov.uk)  
W [www.islington.gov.uk](http://www.islington.gov.uk)

06 February 2019

Kate Garbers  
[request-543429-798b6ab5@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-543429-798b6ab5@whatdotheyknow.com)

Dear Kate,

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REF No: 496401**

Thank you for your information request, received on 10 January 2019.

You requested the following information:

Please find below an FOI request relating to the trafficking of children and their subsequent care.

Unseen is providing safe accommodation for potentially trafficked foreign migrant children. The service has been developed with local authority, police and governmental partners and is Ofsted registered. Through running this service we have become aware of some systemic barriers that fundamentally prevent children from accessing the care and protection they need.

We would like to know, for each local authority in the UK:

1. How many potentially trafficked children you have identified in the last 12 months?
2. How many of these children have been non-UK Nationals?
3. Of the children identified what type of care placements have been sought? (foster care, secure, supported accommodation, children's home, living independently)
4. How many children in this cohort have subsequently a) remained in their original placement b) moved to a different placement c) gone missing short-term (72 hours or less) or d) gone missing long-term (over 72 hours)?

This information is being requested from each Local Authority area in the UK.



Our response is:

**Note: the numbers below include children supported through the county lines and National Referral Mechanism processes, and also includes Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.**

- 1. 29 children in total were identified as potentially trafficked children as a result of criminal exploitation over the past year. Please note our recording system for this was introduced on October 2018, so this data does not include children that were identified prior to this time, who were assessed and closed to Children Social Care, before October 2018.**

- 2. 12**

- 3. Eight children have remained residing at home, and x of these children have been arrested and are currently in custody.**

**13 children are in foster care**

**x children are in residential care**

**x children are in a secure placement**

**x children are in a semi-independent accommodation**

- 4.**

**a) Eight children have remained residing at home, and x of these children have been arrested and are currently in custody. Seven Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children remained in their original placement.**

**b) Six children have moved placements. x Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children were moved internally and x were dispersed under the National Transfer System/Pan London rota due to Islington being over their national quota.**

**c) Nine children have gone missing in the short term.**

**d) 11 children have gone missing for over 72 hours.**

**x - numbers relating to fewer than five, or when combined with other figures that identify numbers fewer than five, have been suppressed to prevent identification of individuals. We consider that an exemption under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 therefore applies. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and does not require for a public interest test to be carried out. In accordance with Section 17 of the FOIA, this is a technical refusal notice.**

If you are not satisfied with the way in which your request has been handled or the outcome, you may request an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this response by contacting: Information Complaints, Resources, 4th Floor, 7 Newington Barrow Way, London N7 7EP. Email: [infocomplaints@islington.gov.uk](mailto:infocomplaints@islington.gov.uk)

Further information is also available from the Information Commissioner's Office, at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone: 01625 545 700. Web: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Carmel Littleton  
**Corporate Director**  
**Children, Employment and Skills**

If you would like this document in large print or Braille, audiotape or in another language, please telephone 020 7527 2000.

