



Reference: FOI-289

**Request:**

**Contact details**

1. Does your local authority have a separate team dealing with requests for support under section 17 Children Act 1989, for example an 'NRPF team'?
2. If yes, please provide contact details for this team (telephone and email)
3. If no, please confirm where referrals for such support should be directed to and provide contact details (telephone and email)
4. Please also provide contact details for the relevant legal team supporting children's services or dedicated NRPF team (telephone and email)

**Policies**

5. Do you have any guidance or policy documents or other such written material in respect of undertaking assessments and providing support pursuant to section 17 of the Children Act 1989 to families with no recourse to public funds (including documents specific to this issue, or of more general application but covering this issue)?
6. If yes, please provide us with a copy.

**Assessments**

7. How many families requested assessments under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022?
8. How many of the families identified in question 7 received financial support under section 17 following their assessment?
9. How many of the families identified in question 7 received accommodation under section 17 of the Children Act following their assessment?
10. How many of the families identified in question 7 had no recourse to public funds (either because of a restriction on their leave to remain or because they were undocumented)?
11. How many families with no recourse to public funds received financial support under section 17 following their assessment?

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12. How many families with no recourse to public funds received accommodation under section 17 following their assessment?
13. What were the five most common reasons for refusing support under section 17 of the Children Act? Please note that we are not requesting personal information. Answers can be general, such as 'not in need' or 'immigration status'

### **Subsistence**

14. What types of subsistence support does the local authority provide (e.g. cash, prepayment cards, vouchers)?
15. What criteria are used to determine the type of subsistence support? Please provide any policies or guidance if available.
16. If the local authority pays a fixed rate of financial support, what is this rate?
17. Does the local authority provide any additional payments, such as for young children, pregnant mothers, or maternity grants? If yes, please specify.
18. If the answers to question 16 and/or 17 are yes, how have the figures been reached (e.g. by reference to section 4 support)?

If you hold any of the information requested but consider it is exempt from disclosure, please state specifically what exemption you rely upon (including the relevant statutory provision) and the reason you consider it to be applicable.

### **Response:**

#### **Contact details**

1. No
2. Not applicable
3. 01916438016, [MASH@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:MASH@northtyneside.gov.uk)
4. 01916432122, [safeguarding.legalteam@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:safeguarding.legalteam@northtyneside.gov.uk)

#### **Policies**

5. No

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6. Not applicable

### Assessments

7. 116

8. A manual check of all records would need to be undertaken to provide this answer. Therefore, this part of the request is refused under s12 (1) Freedom of Information Act 2000, since the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

In assessing the cost of complying, the costs attributable to officer time involved in complying have been considered. Such costs are limited to £450.00 under the Regulations, which equates to eighteen hours of officer time.

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11.6

12.6

13. The Authority does not refuse to offer support (not limited to financial support) once a family is identified as needing support under Section 17. This support can be refused by the family.



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**Subsistence**

14. All of the items identified and also food shopping/ necessities are required eg nappies.
15. The Authority has a Friends and Family panel for larger amounts. All families who receive financial support should have budget planning discussions with their allocated social worker or family support worker and if they identify that the family is in need, they can request financial support from the relevant Service Manager/ Senior Manager, who used their professional judgement to agree financial support or not.
16. The Authority does not have a fixed rate of financial support.
17. Based upon individual circumstances and assessed needs
18. Not applicable