



Reference: FOI0980

Request:

Can you please provide the following information with regards to contact arrangements for adopted children who are placed by yourselves:

1. The number of adopted children with active letterbox contact arrangements (i.e. where there are one or more letters due to be sent during the year). An arrangement would still be considered active even if the scheduled letters are not being sent for any reason (e.g. the birth relative is unresponsive).

220

2. The number of active, unique letterbox contact arrangements (e.g. an adopted child with separate arrangements for two birth relatives would be considered to be two unique arrangements).

The number of active letterbox contact arrangements between an adopted child and more than one family member is 143.

From the above 143 adopted children's contact arrangements

- 57 have two separate arrangements in place
- 44 have three separate arrangements in place
- 26 have four separate arrangements in place
- 13 have five separate arrangements in place
- 1 has six separate arrangements in place
- 1 has seven separate arrangements in place
- 1 has nine separate arrangements in place

3. How long an archived copy of letters are held on record for by yourselves.

100 years from the adoption order being made

4. A breakdown of the number of arrangements which are reviewed by yourselves in order to ensure that they are appropriate and approved/rejected before being sent on to the recipient versus those which aren't reviewed and are just forwarded on irrespective of the content.

5.

We do not keep a record recording of how many arrangements have been reviewed.

6. The methods used for delivering the letters to the recipients (e.g letters posted or delivered via courier, letter collected from your offices, letters viewed at your office but not taken away, letters sent via email, letters viewed online in a self service electronic system)

Password / encrypted protected email or Recorded delivery

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7. The number of adopted children with active direct contact arrangements with a birth relative.

There are four adopted children with arrangements of direct contact with birth relatives.

8. The number of active, unique direct contact arrangements

From the four adopted children with arrangements for direct contact with a birth family member, one adopted child has two different arrangements for direct contact with birth family members. (e.g. the adopted child meets with its birth grandmother once a year but with its birth sibling three times a year.)

The other three have one arrangement each.

9. A breakdown of the number of direct contact arrangements which are facilitated by yourselves (e.g. arranging a time/date, place etc.) versus those which are arranged directly between the parties (if known).

Of the four adopted children who have direct contact with birth family members, all episodes of direct contact are arranged by the adoptive parent and the other party.

10. A breakdown of the number of direct contact arrangements which are supervised by yourselves versus those which are unsupervised.

Of the four adopted children who have direct contact with birth family members, all episodes of direct contact are supervised by the adoptive parents only.