



Reference: FOI2235

Request:

I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act. This request has eight questions - question 8 is further below under the 'Duty to Assist' section, and should not be counted towards the section 12 cost limit.

use the attached spreadsheet for questions 1 to 7.

1. Combining the calendar years 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, how many Looked After Children had three or more placements during a single calendar year?
2. In each calendar year for 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, how many Looked After Children had three or more placements that year?
3. Combining the calendar years 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, how many Looked After Children had five or more placements during a single calendar year?
4. In each calendar year for 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, how many Looked After Children had five or more placements that year?
5. Combining the calendar years 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, how many Looked After Children had ten or more placements during a single calendar year?
6. In 2019, did any Looked After Children have ten or more placements during the calendar year?
7. In each calendar year for 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, how many Looked After Children had ten or more placements that year? If information is not available for calendar years, please use the corresponding financial years and state this to be the case.

Guidance notes Questions 1, 3 and 5 are asking for a single combined figure for all the years put together, but relate to the number of placements in a single calendar year (not the number of placements over the course of four years). Questions 2, 4 and 7 break these figures down by individual calendar year. So for example, for question 5, if three children had ten or more placements in 2016, four children did in 2017, one child did in 2018, and seven children did in 2019, the question 5 response would be 15 (3 + 4 + 1 + 7). The responses for question 7 would be three in 2016, four in 2017, one in 2018 and seven in 2019. This request is structured in this way to account for the possibility that figures for individual years may be low enough to trigger the FOI 'personal information' exemption. This is also why question 6 is written as a straight yes/no question.

Duty to assist 8. Under the duty to assist, please could the council tell me how it records the type of abuse where 'abuse or neglect' is the recorded category for Looked After Children? I am interested in whether the recorded abuse was directed towards the child, or instead towards another household member (e.g. mother). Are these only recorded in each child's case file, or is this level of detail captured in the council's statistics? And what is the council's estimate of the time required to examine a single case file for that information?

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in relation to question 8 we would use the usual DFE codes. This would not provide the requested information without a manual / granular look at each Looked After Case. On review this would take approximately 45 - 50 minutes to access each case file for the information required to respond.

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