



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 0315143
Date 26 March 2015

Care Order Applications

Request:

1. Of the care order applications that led to placement order applications in 2013/14 underpinned by the following classifications of harm - physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect - how many featured domestic abuse as the source of harm?
2. Of the cases provided in response to question 1, in how many of them was the mother the primary carer?

Response

With reference to your above questions regarding spend on care order applications, I can confirm that the Council holds information falling within the description specified in your request. However, Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows a public authority to refuse a request if the cost of providing the information to the applicant would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 as we would have to manually trawl through each care order application in order to provide you with an answer to your above questions as we do not hold the specified information centrally.

The Regulations provide that the appropriate limit to be applied to requests received by local authorities is £450 (equivalent to 2.5 days of work). In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

- “(a) determining whether it holds the information,*
- (b) locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
- (c) retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
and
- (d) extracting the information from a document containing it”.*

For the purposes of the estimate the costs of performing these activities should be estimated at a rate of £25 per hour.

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

As such I believe that the aggregated time that it would take to collate the information would be in excess of 18 hours (equivalent to a notional cost of £450).